

# Water safety procedure

## National Quality Standard Area 2 | Children's health and safety

Children have the right to experience quality education and care in an environment that safeguards and promotes their health, safety and wellbeing.

### Purpose

This procedure provides instructions in relation to managing water safety, including during water-based activities, based on a completed risk assessment.

This procedure applies to all staff at this site and accompanies the site risk assessment on water play.

### Detail

Children enjoy exploring their learning environments, including playing in/with/around water play, however they generally have little understanding of the danger that it can pose.

### Water hazards

A water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth. Water hazards in a child's learning environment can include:

- > sinks, basins, fish tanks, fishbowls, baths
- > swimming pools, portable pools, spas
- > water courses, ponds, sandpits, clam shells
- > water troughs, containers and buckets used for play, animal drinking containers
- > pooling water

### Managing water hazards

Our staff regularly completes risk assessments to identify and assess risks associated with any water hazards and water-based activities. These risk assessments must address:

1. **Active supervision** – children are actively supervised at all times when there is a risk of access to any water hazard. Active supervision includes:
  - > direct and constant monitoring of children – within arm's length (within 1 to 2 metres)
  - > careful and intentional positioning
  - > scanning and moving around the environment
  - > listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise



- > observing play and anticipating behaviour
  - > higher adult to child ratios
2. **Eliminating hazards** – water will be emptied regularly and troughs and buckets etc will be stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use. All aspects of the environment are designed to ensure adequate drainage of water to avoid pooling.
  3. **Restricting access** – compliant fencing/barriers.

## Water safety during excursions

Water safety and potential water hazards are considered when undertaking risk assessments for excursions, including routine excursions.

## Fishpond safety

The inclusion of our fishpond is an exciting outdoor learning space for children however, the pond needs to be kept safe to minimise the drowning hazard for young children. Special considerations to be made include;

- > Large rocks are placed on the bottom layer (bed) of the pond to minimise the overall depth.
- > Ensure that interaction with the fishpond is a planned, supervised activity
- > Ensure playgroup parents know where the pond is and their responsibility for supervising their child while in the yard
- > Risk assessments are discussed with the children to teach the rules when engaging with the pond
- > Site water play risk assessment is in constant use and reviewed regularly
- > Close and constant adult supervision at all times is the key to water safety for kids
- > The fishpond is reviewed at the beginning of the year when the water risk assessment is reviewed and any WHS changes are made to ensure the ongoing safety of the pond for children.

## Approvals

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Approved by: Catherine Day | Director, McKellar Stewart Kindergarten

Approved by: Sophie Wilkinson | Governing Council Chair, McKellar Stewart Kindergarten

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## Revision record

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