

# Water Safety Procedure



## NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

| QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY |                    |  |
|--|--------------------|--|
| 2.1  | Health             | Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted              |
| 2.1.3  | Healthy lifestyles | Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child |

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.

### 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 Director 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 immediately after use and 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.

Approvals

Status: Approved

Version: 0.1

Approved by: Name | Director, Site Name

Approved by: Name | Governing Council, Site Name

Approval date: 15 September 2022

Next review date: 6 September 2024 (must be 3 years from the approved date)

Revision record

Version: 1.0

Approved by: Name | Director Stephanie Mills , Greenwith Kindergarten

Approved date: 15 September 2022

Next review date: 6 September 2024

Amendment(s):