



Water Safety Policy

Aim:

The safety and supervision of children is paramount when in or around water. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the Centre environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

Water use within the Centre will be supervised to ensure the safety of children, staff and families is a priority. The hygienic state of water will be assessed before it is used for children's play. Drinking water will be accessible but hygienically stored and maintained.

Legislative requirements / Sources:

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011:

101	Conduct risk assessment for excursion
115	Premises designed to facilitate supervision
168(2)(a)(iii)	Education and care service must have policies and procedures – water safety, including safety during any water based activities
170	Policies and procedures to be followed
171	Policies and procedures to be kept available
172	Notification of change to policies and procedures

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law 2010:

165	Offence to adequately supervise children
167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazard

National Quality Standards (NQS):

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

2.2	Safety	Each child is protected
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard

Sources:

- National Health and Medical Research Council www.nhmrc.gov.au
- NSW Department of Health www.health.nsw.gov.au
- Child Accident Prevention Foundation Australia www.kidsafe.org.au

Implementation:

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Provide guidance and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water
- Ensure procedures and practices incorporate safe storage of water and safe water play
- Ensure children are adequately supervised and protected from harm and hazard
- Ensure risk assessments for excursions are planned near water
- Ensure first aid and CPR qualifications and requirements are met at all times
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- Ensure that thermostatic valves are tested and serviced by a plumber as needed.

Educators and staff will:

- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. These activities will be supervised at all times by adults and containers or troughs will be emptied onto garden areas immediately after use. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities
- Ensure trickle stream ponds are supervised during water play and then emptied of pooling water before returning inside after outdoor play
- Ensure sinks filled with water for cleaning toys are not left unattended
- Teach children about safety in and around water
- Ensure buckets used for general cleaning in the Centre will be emptied immediately after use. No buckets will be left in play areas or accessible to children.
- Provide children with clean drinking water at all times. At Maryland Care & Early Education Centre children are required to bring their own water bottle which is taken home at the end of each day to be washed. Any remaining water bottles must be emptied and cleaned thoroughly
- Ensure water bottles are re filled throughout the day and that children only use their own water bottle
- Ensure water jugs are washed and cleaned at the end of each day or as needed throughout the day
- **No hot drinks will be consumed or stored in the classroom.** Educators and staff are encouraged to bring their own water bottles for use throughout the day

- Ensure a risk assessment that details any activities near contained water is conducted before any excursion is approved

Operational Safety

- The Centre will professionally maintain all hot water accessible to children at 43.5°C. Thermostatic valves will be tested and serviced by a plumber when required.
- Excursions near bodies of water are allowed as long as a risk assessment has been completed (see Excursion Policy)
- Water for any pets or animals at the service must be changed regularly and only be accessible to children when adults are present

Review:

This policy is the intellectual property of Maryland Care & Early Education Centre and is created with consultation of staff and families attending the service. This policy is available in other languages upon request.

Last reviewed: February 2024

Next review: February 2026