



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:

Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
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 that thermostatic valves are tested and serviced annually by a plumber and 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 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 drink bottle for water 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 drink 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 annually by a plumber
- Excursions will not be located near bodies of water
- 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: March 2016

Next review: March 2018