

## **Water Safety**

**NQS 2.1.2** Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.

**NQS 2.2** Each child is protected.

**NQS 2.2.1** At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard

### **Introduction**

The safety and supervision of children in and around water at the Glenaeon Rudolf Steiner Preschool is of the highest priority. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the service environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

### **Procedure**

#### **The Director/Nominated Supervisor will:**

- Provide guidance and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water.
- Ensure health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and play.
- Ensure at least one Educator who holds a current approved first aid qualification must be in attendance at all times.

#### **Educators and staff will:**

- Supervise children near water at all times.
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are very visible. These activities will be supervised at all times and containers or troughs will be emptied onto garden areas after use. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities.
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water.
- Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No buckets are left in play areas or accessible to children.
- Children have safe independent access to cool clean drinking water at all times.
- Provide clean drinking water at all times. This water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming. At the end of each day, the water container will be emptied and cleaned thoroughly. Filtered water will be provided from the kitchen for mealtimes.

### **Operational Safety**

- Grey water systems or water tanks are fenced and inaccessible to children. Water from the tank is utilised in the toilets only and not available for drinking.
- Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature no greater than 43.5°. Thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber.

- A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water.
- Adults may carry and consume hot drinks in the children's area during centre open hours only in a thermal cup or mug with a lid that prevents spilling.
- Water for pets must be changed regularly and only be accessible to children when adults are present.
- Display a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) guide as required.

### Statutory Legislation & Considerations

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

### Sources

- National Health and Medical Research Council - [www.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au)
- NSW Department of Health - [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)
- <https://www.cela.org.au/resource/sample-policy-water-safety-13062017/>
- Revised National Quality Standards

### Evaluation

Supervision and access to water by children is managed effectively by staff to ensure children remain safe and healthy.

### Review

Date Reviewed	Modifications	Next Policy Review Due
Feb 2013 Nov 2013 June 2014 Oct 2014		
Dec 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated the references to comply with the revised National Quality Standard.</li> <li>• Additional points added to the procedures for Director / NS, Educators and the operational requirement to display a CPR chart.</li> </ul>	Dec 2018
March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace reference to safe water levels in troughs to ensuring water play containers and troughs being very visible to staff.</li> <li>• Update reference to water temp being maintained at 43.5° to no higher than this.</li> </ul>	March 2020