Water Safety Policy

1. Policy Statement

The safety and supervision of children in and around water 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.

2. Legislative Requirements

Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010 Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

168 Policy and procedure in relation to 2 (a) (iii) water safety, including safety during any water-based activities

National Quality Standard 2011

2.3.1 Children are adequately supervised at all times.
2.3.2 Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.
7.3.5 Service practices are based on effectively documented policies and procedures that are available at the service and reviewed regularly.

3. Who is affected by this policy?

a) Children
b) Staff
c) Parents
d) Management

4. Implementation

The Nominated Supervisor will:

A. Provide guidance and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water.

B. Ensure work, health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and play.

Educators and staff will:

A. Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. 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.

B. Teach children about staying safe in and around water.

C. Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No buckets are left in play areas or accessible to children.

D. Provide clean drinking water at all times. This water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming. Water containers will be securely sealed. At the end of each day, the water container will be emptied and cleaned thoroughly.

Operational Safety

A. Grey water systems or water tanks will be labelled with “do not drink” signage and the children will be supervised in this area to make sure they are not accessing this water for drinking. Educators will discuss with the children that this water is for the purpose of play and not for consumption.

B. Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5oC. Thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber.

C. 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.

D. Adults may carry and consume hot drinks only in a thermal cup or mug with a screw lid that prevents spilling.

E. Water for pets at the setting must be changed regularly and only be accessible to children when adults are present.

5. Sources


6. Review

The policy will be reviewed annually. Review will be conducted by management, employees, parents and any interested parties.

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