



Water Safety

Quality Area 2: Children's health & safety

Relevant Legislation

Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) ACT 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011: 168
National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care: Element 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 3.1.2

Aim / Rationale

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 always be supervised during water play experiences.

Goals

Children's safety and wellbeing will:

- ✧ Be protected in and around water through supervision and prevention; and
- ✧ Be promoted through the availability of clean, hygienic water for play and for drinking.

Strategies: What will we do?

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

Educators and staff will ensure:

- ✧ Children are closely supervised near water at all times during water-based activities.
- ✧ Children are never left alone where water is present.
- ✧ When wading pools, or similar, are utilised in the children's program, educators will always closely supervise children.
- ✧ Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) guidelines and procedures are on display inside and outside.
- ✧ Water safety messages will be embedded in the children's education program where appropriate, including during water-based activities such as water play, sand play and play with elements of nature such as mud, creek beds, watering the garden and rain catching.
- ✧ Educators cover or make inaccessible to children all water containers, eg tubs, nappy buckets, wading pools.
- ✧ Any wading pool, tub or bucket used for water-based activities are emptied immediately after use and stored in a way that prevents the collection of water.
- ✧ After rainfall, working bees, watering the garden or any other community access to Yass Montessori Pre-School, educators check the outside environment and empty water that has collected in equipment or in containers.
- ✧ The thermostat on the hot water system is set to a medium temperature to ensure that hand washing can be carried out without risk of scalding.
- ✧ For any children that need bathing while at the Pre-School, a bath temperature of between 37 and 38 degrees will be provided. In most cases, bathing will be done with a cloth and warm water.
- ✧ Any warm water around children will be tested to ensure that it is not hot enough to cause scalding.

Water Safety outside the premises:

Yass Montessori Pre-School does not plan for excursions that involve children swimming as we cannot provide educators that have recognised experience in water safety and rescue procedures. However, from time to time there may be excursions to places where there is a body of water, eg dam or swimming pool.

- The planning of such excursions is subject to Yass Montessori Pre-School's excursions policy, including risk assessment and adult:child ratios for adequate supervision which are at a higher ratio for water play and/or experiences near bodies of water.
- Water safety messages are built into the children's education program.
- Supervision near bodies of water on excursions is maintained by educators who hold a first aid certificate which includes CPR.
- Excursion permission forms will clearly state where bodies of water will be present, and will include added safety precautions to ensure families are informed about risk assessment procedures, and about community messages regarding water safety for families to share with their children prior to the excursion.

Operational Safety

- ✧ 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.
- ✧ 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 only in a thermo cup or mug with lid that prevents spilling. Hot drinks must be consumed away from the children.
- ✧ Water for pets at the Pre-School must be changed regularly and only be accessible to children when adults are present.

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

Procedures and Forms Risk Assessments Outdoor Checklists
 Staff Induction WH&S Checklist

Links to other Policies Incident Injury Trauma & Illness Enrolment
 Professional Development Excursions
 Interactions with Children Staff Inductions
 Emergency Evacuation Procedures Medication, Administration of
 W H & S Child Protection

Policy Reviewed	Modifications	Next Review Date
October 2013	Reviewed	October 2015
November 2016	Reviewed	
November 2021	Reviewed – Links to other Policies	2023 or when procedure, practice, or legislation changes