

Water Safety

(Regulation 168(2)(a)(iii)) (National Quality Standard 2.3)

Purpose

EYPP recognise the sensory benefits gained by children engaged in safe water play activities. Our Centre believes that water play is essential in developing literacy and numeracy skills as well as scientific discovery abilities and environmental awareness in children while assisting them in their fine motor skills as they learn to grasp, measure, pour, discover the basic concept of water displacement and water energy and experiment with diffusion. Similarly, we also recognise and understand that a child can drown in as little as 5cm of water and we take our responsibility to provide a safe, resource rich learning environment seriously.

We understand that all water carrying vessels that can reasonably present a drowning hazard for children.

Further, we recognise that water has the capacity to be a heavy material and as such require staff to follow appropriate OH&S guidelines relating to back care and safety of equipment when moving or securing vessels containing water.

Procedures

- All water activities must be supervised at all times while children are present.
- If supervision cannot be guaranteed then the water activity is packed away and the water vessel is emptied.
- At the end of the water activity session all water carrying vessels are emptied.
- Children are encouraged to safely explore the properties of water.
- Educators will build water safety messages into the programming.
- Educators will also further ensure that the programming reflects the appropriate environmental water-wise message when water play activities are planned.
- Assistance will be sought from families in providing a spare set of clothing for their child in the event that the child becomes uncomfortably wet during a session of water play
- Therefore, water vessels will not be filled to the top but instead filled to a minimal depth enough for children to gain a positive experience.
- Staff will also consider the weight of the vessel when filled with water and think about if they need 2 people to lift and empty it.

- Staff will ensure that all water carrying vessels are stored in a manner to prevent the inadvertent collection of water through natural causes such as rain.
- Staff will ensure that all water carrying vessels are emptied and allowed to dry thoroughly at the end of each water play activity to prevent the build-up of potentially harmful bacteria and mould
- Water assessable to children is regulated to the appropriate temperature to prevents injury form occurring.

Related Policies

- ❖ Supervision
- ❖ Interaction with children
- ❖ Incident, injury, trauma & Illness.
- ❖ Hygiene
- ❖ Safety

Sources

National Quality Standards
Education and Care Services National Regulation s
<http://www.kidsalive.com.au/>
Occupational and Safety Act 2004

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