



Water Safety Policy

National Quality Standard 2.2 – Each child is protected

Education and Care Services National Regulations R 168 (2) (a) (iii)

Related Key Regulations: R 101 (2) (b)

Note: also refer to Department for Education 'Camps and excursions guidelines for schools and preschools' policy

Rationale

Drowning is the leading cause of death for children aged 1 – 4 years in Australia. At The Nest we believe that water play is an important medium for children to experiment with and explore. Water adds an engaging and tactile dimension to the learning environment and can enhance children's imaginative play.

The Nest promotes safety and the prevention of child accidents and illness relating to water and water play. The Water Safety Policy outlines how we will manage water safety, including during water based play activities.

1. TITLE

The Nest Water Safety Policy

2. PURPOSE

The Water Safety Policy will guide The Nest to ensure safety and the prevention of child accidents and illness relating to water and water play. The Water Safety Policy outlines how we will manage water safety, including during water based play activities at The Nest.

3. SCOPE

The Nest Water Safety Policy is in line with the Department for Education's Preschool Water Safety Procedure. The Nest may work with parents, caregivers, community services and local industry to deliver programs at the Pre/school and within the local community to provide information and resources to support water safety for children attending pre/school.

4. OBJECTIVES

The Nest Water Safety Policy promotes safety and the prevention of child accidents and illness relating to water and water play. Water based play activities in the pre/school are a useful way of learning and exploring concepts such as measurement and liquids, and encourages children to engage in imaginative play. The policy also aims to identify and minimise risks associated with water hazards in the pre/school environment.

5. POLICY DETAILS

5.1 Safe environment:

- Ensure that children are supervised when they are accessing the toilets or washing their hands
- Provide a water and mud play environment under close supervision in specific areas and with specific equipment
- Ensure that compliant fencing or barriers are used to restrict children's access to potential water hazards
- Identify water hazards in The Nest environment including sinks, basins, toilets, water troughs, containers and buckets used for play, drinking containers, and fish tanks/bowls. Appropriate signage is used when flooring is unsafe due to water spillages.
- All aspects of The Nest environment must be designed to ensure adequate drainage to avoid pooling water from uneven surfaces or down pipes

5.2 Risk assessment:

Site leaders are required to complete risk assessments that identify and assess risks associated with any water hazards and water-based activities. Risk assessments must address active supervision as children must be actively supervised at all times when there is a risk of access to any water hazard

5.3 Active supervision:

Children must be actively supervised at all times when there is access to any water hazard. Active supervision includes:

- direct and constant monitoring of children – within arm's length (within 1-2 metres)
- careful and intentional positioning
- scanning and moving around the environment
- listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
- observing play and anticipating behaviour
- higher adult/child ratios
- Intentional teaching of safe and unsafe play around water

5.4 Water based play activities:

The Nest program includes opportunities for children to be involved in water based play activities. Consideration will be given to individual and cultural needs when deciding upon water based play experiences. Children are explicitly taught about water safety behaviours and practices. The Nest will work with staff, parents and children to:

- ensure children will be changed into dry clothes if they become very wet during water play activities
- ensure that children are supervised when playing with water and when participating in excursions near water
- ensure that water play equipment is emptied immediately after use, cleaned daily and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use
- teach children about safety around water and when engaging in water based play activities

6. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Implementation: All Educators

Monitoring: Dan Jarrad, Principal

Review Date: July 2024

Next review due: July 2025

Endorsed by Governing Council: 10/9/24

This policy will be shared with all new staff and families and is available on the website and in The Nest Policies Folder.

Supporting Documents:

- **Critical incidents, injury and hazard reporting**
- **The Early Years Learning Framework**
- **Preschool excursions**
- **Outdoor Learning Environments Standard**
- **Preschool Water Safety Procedure** <https://edi.sa.edu.au/library/document-library/controlled-procedures/preschool-water-safety-procedure.pdf>
- The Nest children, educators, families and Governing Council members