

# Acorn Child Care Centres

## Policies and Procedures



### 2.20 Water Safety

#### Background

Children's access to clean water for drinking and for washing their hands is important for their health and wellbeing. In

addition, access to water play affords children the opportunity for open-ended, exploratory and sensory play which

contributes to their development and learning. It also develops environmental awareness.

However, children can drown in as little as 5cm of water. Accordingly, their access to water requires effective

management and the highest level of supervision.

#### Policy statement

This Policy outlines the Service's approach to water safety so that children remain unharmed and healthy and applies at

the Service and during excursions. Safety and supervision of children are the highest priority when children have access

to water. The Policy covers hot water, drinking water, hygiene practices with water, and water play. It also includes safe

storage of equipment used for water play.

#### Strategies and practices

- At enrolment, the Service's Water Safety Policy is explained to parents. QA 6.1.1, 7.3.5
- Families are provided with water safety information including water safety in the home and the availability of
- learn-to-swim programs in the local community. QA 6.1.3
- Children are closely supervised at all times they are involved in water play or are near water. They are never
- left alone near water. QA 2.3.1, 2.3.2
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) posters are displayed prominently throughout the Service, and where
- water play is set up. QA 2.3.3
- Educators intentionally teach children about staying safe in and around water. QA 2.3.2
- Educators receive continuing professional development in water safety, and specific water safety issues are
- discussed in team meetings. QA 7.2.2
- Children have ready access to clean drinking water at all times, and are regularly offered water throughout the
- day. QA 2.1.1

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- The water in troughs and containers used for water play is kept at safe levels for children, and at weights that
- educators can move or secure according to WHS guidelines for safe lifting. QA 2.1.3
- Children are discouraged from drinking any water used in the play activities. QA 2.1.3, 2.3.2
- All water troughs and containers are emptied and hygienically cleaned at the end of each water play activity,
- allowed to dry thoroughly to prevent the build-up of potentially harmful bacteria such as mould, and then
- stored in an area inaccessible to children. QA 2.3.2, 3.1.2
- Educators and children wash and dry their hands after each water play activity to reduce the risk of cross-infection. QA 2.1.3
- Buckets used for cleaning are kept out of children's reach, emptied immediately after each use and stored in an
- area inaccessible to children. QA 2.3.2
- The Service's fences and gates meet regulatory requirements, and educators ensure that items that could be
- used to scale the fence are kept away from the fence. QA 3.1.1
- The Nominated Supervisor completes an Excursion Risk Management Plan prior to every excursion. As part of
- the risk assessment, particular attention is focused upon water safety whenever the excursion is near a body of
- water, and upon supervision implications. QA 2.3.2
- Water for pets is changed regularly, and is inaccessible to children unless accompanied by an educator. QA 2.3.2,
- 3.1.2
- Parents are asked to provide a spare set of clothing for their child in the event that the child engages in water
- play and becomes uncomfortably wet. QA 2.1.2

Water conservation is embedded in the Service's practices

o only the amount of water required to undertake programmed water play is used

o water used in water play is emptied onto gardens

o water play is discontinued during water restrictions, and the reasons explained to the children

o educators encourage children to turn taps off to avoid wastage

o water conservation posters are displayed in bathrooms. QA 3.3.1, 3.3.2

- Educators model and intentionally teach children water conservation, and provide parents with information to
- continue the Service's conservation message at home. Refer to the Service's Environmental Sustainability Policy.
- QA 3.3.1, 3.3.2
- Adults consume hot drinks in areas not accessed by children, including excursions. QA 2.3.2

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- The temperature of hot water accessible to children is maintained at 38 Celsius or below in accordance with the
- AS 3500.4. Thermostatic valves are tested and serviced annually by a plumber, and this action recorded. QA
- 2.3.2, 3.1.1
- Additional safe practices for babies
- To ensure that babies and toddlers are never left unattended in the bath.
- Responsibilities of parents
- To provide a spare set of clothing for their child in the event that the child engages in water play and becomes
- uncomfortably wet.
- To continue the Service's water conservation message at home.
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### Links to other policies

- Animal Policy
- Enrolment and Orientation Policy
- Educational Program Policy
- Environmental Sustainability Policy
- Excursion Policy
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
- Supervision Policy

### Sources

- Community Childcare Cooperative. (2010). Water safety: Sample policy
- <http://www.cscentral.org.au/Resources/water-safety.pdf> accessed 14 June 2013
- Early Years Learning Framework 2009.
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.
- Guide to the National Quality Standard 2011.
- Further reading and useful websites
- Childcare Queensland. (2011). Kids alive do the five and Childcare Lesson Plans
- <http://resources.kidsalive.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Kids-Alive-and-Childcare-QLD-LessonPlans2.pdf> accessed 24 November 2013
- Gosford and Wyong Council. (2007). Climbing the little green steps: How to promote sustainability in early
- childhood services in your local area. Gosford, Australia.
- <http://www.livingthing.net.au/rc/PP/ClimbLittleGreenSteps.pdf> accessed 24 November 2013
- Kidsafe – <http://www.kidsafe.com.au/>
- National Health and Medical Research Council – <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/>

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24 November 2013

<b>15/03/2016</b>							
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