



## Water Safety Policy (CHS 15)

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### Policy Rationale

The safety and supervision of children is paramount when in or around water. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the Preschool environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

### Strategies, Practices and Procedures

We are guided by Community Child Care Co-operative NSW's Water Safety strategies, which include;

- 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. Staff will discuss with children that this water is for the purpose of gardening and/or play, and not for consumption.
- Staff will ensure water containers for water play are filled to a safe level. These activities will be supervised at all times by adults and containers will be emptied onto garden areas after use. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities.
- As outlined in our Nutrition Policy, children will be provided with clean drinking water at all times.
- Buckets used for general cleaning at the service will be emptied immediately after use. No buckets will be left in play areas or accessible to children.
- The Preschool will ensure any hot water taps are regulated to prevent injury to children.
- If staff consume hot drinks in the Preschool room they must have that drink in a thermal mug with a lid that securely screws onto the mug and can be closed to stop spillage.
- Excursions will not be located near bodies of water. If an excursion occurs where children must pass water, the staff will ensure that adequate staff:child ratios are applied, and follow strategies outlined in our Excursion Policy.

- The outdoor play area will be checked each session to ensure that no containers have pooled water.
- At all times, the staff will be aware of the children's safety and health when playing with water.

#### **Links to Legislation & National Quality Standards**

- Guide to the National Quality Standards 2011: 2.3.2
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011:100, 168

#### **Links to other Policies**

- Excursion Policy (CHS 12)
- Nutrition Policy (CHS 10)
- Child Safe Environment (PE 2)

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