Water Safety at Napperby Preschool

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

This policy is based on Kidsafe Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia and DfE Preschool Water Safety Procedures.

Benefits of Water Play

- Water play develops hand-eye coordination
- Water play introduces maths and scientific concepts
- Water play enhances concentration and focus
- Water play develops motor skills and sensory exploration
- Water play builds social and communication skills

WATER SAFETY

Childhood drowning – the issue

- The most common factor for childhood drowning is lack of active supervision
- A child can drown silently in as little as 5cm of water, in less than 20 seconds
- For every 1 child who drowns, 10 others are rescued from a near drowning incident.

Why young children are most at risk of drowning

- They love to play with water and are naturally drawn to it
- They do not understand the danger
- They are top heavy (their head is large in comparison to their body) and they have a tendency to fall.

Water hazards

A water hazard is anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth. There are a number of water hazards in children's learning environments, including:

- Sinks, basins, fish tanks/bowls, baths
- Swimming pools, portable pools, spas
- Water courses, ponds, sandpits, clam shells
- Water troughs, containers and buckets used for play, animal drinking containers
- Pooling water.

Managing Water Based Play

Children will be educated on the importance of safe water play.
Staff will conduct risk benefit assessment prior to conducting water-based activities.

Active supervision - Children are actively supervised at all times when there is a risk of access to any water hazard. Active supervision includes:

- Direct and constant monitoring of children
- Careful intentional positioning
- Scanning and moving around the area
- Listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
- Observing play and anticipating behaviour

2. Eliminating hazards – water is emptied immediately after use and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use. All aspects of the environment are designed to ensure adequate drainage of water to avoid pooling.

3. Restricting access – compliant fencing or barrier (N/A)

Swimming pools, portable pools and spas

These are not used at Napperby Preschool

Water courses and ponds

- Water courses are designed so that the depth of the water, at any point, is less than 300mm.
- Where a pond (or any other water collection area) has, or has the potential to, pool water at a depth greater than 300mm, then the area is to be fenced with swimming pool fencing compliant with AS 1926.1:2007.
- The pond/small creek water does not become stagnant. The drainage systems are checked daily.

Water troughs, buckets and other water receptacles

Water receptacles are emptied immediately after use and stored upside down and out of children's reach.

Children do not have access to laundry and kitchen areas at Napperby Preschool

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