



JUMBUNNA COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL AND EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRE INC.

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

WATER SAFETY

Date Approved: 6/6/12

Related Legislation

- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 167
- Education and Care Services National Regulations: Regulation 168(2[h]) & (a[iii])
- Children (Education and Care Services) Supplementary Provisions Regulation 2019
- Children (Education and Care Services) Supplementary Provisions Act 2011

Related Guidelines, Standards, Frameworks

- National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety – Standard 2.1 and Standard 2.2

Sources

- Kidsafe NSW – www.kidsafensw.org/water-safety
- Kids Alive – www.kidsalive.com.au
- Kids Health – <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/water-safety.html>

Policy Statement

The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the service environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences. Whilst water hazards at our service are kept to a minimum, we acknowledge that nappy buckets, water troughs, sinks and toilets can all be hazardous for children and diligent supervision is required.

Strategies - What we are going to do?

Our service has a responsibility to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of each child at all times. Drowning is the leading cause of death for children aged 1-4 years in Australia. While most drowning occurs in backyard swimming pools, it is important to be aware that children can drown in as little as 6cm of water.

Children's safety and wellbeing will:

- be protected in and around water through supervision and prevention; and
- be promoted through the availability of clean, hygienic water for play and for drinking.

Strategies - How it will be done?

Water Safety

- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. Any water containers that could constitute a drowning hazard must be supervised when in use, emptied immediately after use, and stored to prevent the collection of water. These include containers used for water play and buckets for cleaning. Paddling pools are not used at Jumbunna. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities

- Educator: Child ratios will be increased where appropriate around water at all times.
- The water slide, when in use, is strictly supervised by staff with at least one staff member at both the top and bottom of the slide and within easy reach of the children using it.
- No child will be left unsupervised at any stage around any body of water.
- A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water.
- The thermostat on the hot water system is set to a medium temperature (lower than 40.5°C) to ensure children are not able to scald themselves when washing hands and is checked monthly. Thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber.
- Children requiring bathing will be bathed using a washcloth and warm water rather than immersed in a bath.
- Educators are not permitted to consume hot drinks in any area accessible to children.
- Staff may not carry nor consume any hot drinks when in proximity to children. Other adults may carry and consume hot drinks only in a thermal cup or mug with a screw lid that prevents spilling, when in proximity to children.

Water Hygiene

- Grey water systems or 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.
- Educators will discuss with the children that this water is for the purpose of play and not for consumption.
- Water for pets at the service will be changed regularly at not accessible to children unless supervised by an adult.
- Water containers of any sort will be emptied or covered when not in use.
- Drinking water containers will be emptied and cleaned daily.

Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Authority/Responsibility For
Approved Provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the service operates in line with the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations 2011.
Nominated Supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure children are adequately supervised and are protected from harm and hazards. • Provide supervision, guidance and advice to ensure adherence to the policy at all times. • Ensure risk assessments for excursions planned near water identify a higher staff to child ratio to ensure adequate supervision. • Ensure First Aid and CPR qualifications and requirements are met at all times. • Provide families with community messages regarding safe water practices.

Role	Authority/Responsibility for
Early Childhood Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed water safety messages into the children’s education program. • Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied or covered securely after use. • Ensure water troughs or containers are only filled while in attendance by an adult at all times. • Ensure no child is left unattended at any time with any body of water. • Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. • Ensuring no cleaning buckets are left in areas accessible to children. • Discourage children from drinking grey water. • Provide clean drinking water at all times.
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce water safety practice with children.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

This policy will be monitored to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and unless deemed necessary through the identification of practice gaps, the service will review this Policy every two years.

Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review process and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.

In accordance with R. 172 of the *Education and Care Services National Regulations*, the service will ensure that families of children enrolled at the service are notified at least 14 days before making any change to a policy or procedure that may have significant impact on the provision of education and care to any child enrolled at the service; a family’s ability to utilise the service; the fees charged or the way in which fees are collected.

DOCUMENTATION

Documents related to this policy	
Related policies	
Forms, record keeping or other organisational documents	

Policy Name:	Water Safety	Policy Number:	
Date Approved:	24 August 2023	Approved By:	Board of Management
Date Issued:	31 August 2023	Review Date:	30 June 2024
Version 1.5	This version of the policy was approved 24 August 2023 and replaces the version approved 30 June 2022		