



## **WATER SAFETY POLICY**

(Required regulation)

### **Policy Statement**

New Lambton District OOSH (NLDOOSH) recognises the general need for safety around water, always.

At our service, the best interests of the child are our first and foremost consideration in all decisions and actions.

We are committed to:

Prioritising children's safety, wellbeing, and dignity at all times

Ensuring children are at the centre of all decisions about programs, environments, and routines.

Making choices based on what is best for children, even when other priorities exist.

Creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for every child.

This principle applies to all staff, volunteers, and decisions within our service, every day.

We also recognise the sensory benefits of engaging children in safe water play activities.

Water play is essential in developing scientific discovery and environmental awareness. It also assists in the development of fine motor skills as they explore the concepts of water displacement, water energy and experiment with diffusion.

### **Procedures**

#### General

- a. Educators are responsible for ensuring that children remain safe, and are supervised, around water while in the care of NLDOOSH.
- b. The Responsible Person is responsible for ensuring that any resources used in the general provision of water, and for water play, are maintained.
- c. Buckets used for general cleaning in the centre will be emptied immediately after use.
- d. Drinking water will be accessible and hygienically presented for consumption.
- e. Excursions will not be located near bodies of water and parents/ guardians who do not want their child/ren to participate in water play can exclude these activities when they complete the enrolment terms and conditions.

#### Water play safety

- a. The hygienic state of the water will be assessed by educators before it is used for play.

- b. Educators will ensure troughs, buckets and containers for water play are constantly supervised during activity time then emptied and thoroughly cleaned after use.
- c. Children will be discouraged from drinking water used in these activities and will be asked to walk, not run, during water play.
- d. Soaker hose play will always be in a shaded area. Children will be asked to remove their shoes whilst playing under hose and to put them back on after they have finished in the area.

#### Hot water

- a. Water temperature will be measured with a digital thermometer each week by the food prep staff. The water temperature according to Kidsafe NSW “Scald Injury Prevention” fact sheet states that hot water should be controlled to a maximum of 50°C  
<https://www.kidsafensw.org/imagesDB/documents/ScaldInjuryPrevention2013.pdf>
- b. Educators will consume hot drinks away from children in a thermal mug with a securely fastened lid.

#### **Considerations**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Education and Care Services National Regulations	77, 103, 168
National Quality Standard	2.3.2, 3.1.2
Other NLDOOSH policies/ documentation	Providing a Child Safe Environment Administration of First Aid Emergency Situations Policy Excursion Policy Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
Other	<i>My Time, Our Place – Framework for School Age Care in Australia</i> , Council of Australian Governments 2011 Kidsafe NSW “Scald Injury Prevention” fact sheet <a href="https://www.kidsafensw.org/imagesDB/documents/ScaldInjuryPrevention2013.pdf">https://www.kidsafensw.org/imagesDB/documents/ScaldInjuryPrevention2013.pdf</a>

#### **Policy status**

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Policy owned by	New Lambton District OOSH Inc

