



WATER SAFETY POLICY

(Required regulation)

Policy Statement

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

Name	Reference
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 https://www.kidsafensw.org/imagesDB/documents/ScaldInjuryPrevention2013.pdf

Policy status

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