



# Water Safety

## SAMPLE POLICY\*

### Introduction

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 Centre environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

### Goals – What are we going to do?

Water use within the Centre will be supervised to ensure the safety of children, staff and families is a priority. The hygienic state of water will be assessed before it is used for children's play. Drinking water will be accessible but hygienically stored and maintained.



### Strategies - How will it be done?

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. Staff will discuss with the children that this water is for the purpose of play and not for consumption.

Staff will ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. These activities will be supervised at all times by adults and containers or troughs will be emptied onto garden areas after use. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities.

The children will be provided with clean drinking water at all times. This water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming. Water containers must always be securely sealed. At the end of each day, the water container must be emptied and cleaned thoroughly.

Buckets used for general cleaning in the Centre will be emptied immediately after use. No buckets will be left in play areas or accessible to children.

The Centre will professionally maintain all hot water accessible to children at **43.5°C**. The Director is responsible for arranging for the thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber.

Staff will use their breaks to consume hot drinks away from the children. If staff choose to have hot drinks in the rooms, they must have the 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 correct staff:child ratios are met as per *Children's Services Regulation 2004* and follow all guidelines as set out in the *Excursion Policy*.

The children's play areas will be checked each morning to ensure that no containers or pools of water are accessible for children. If rain occurs during the day, outdoor play areas will be checked for safety prior to the children entering the outdoor environment.



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### Statutory Legislation & Considerations

- *Children's Services Regulation 2004*
- *QIAS Quality Practices Guide*
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000*

### Sources

- Australian Legal Information Institute - [www.austlii.edu.au](http://www.austlii.edu.au)
- Department of Community Services - [www.community.nsw.gov.au](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au)
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 - [www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/LawAndPolicy/Acts/ohsact.htm](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/LawAndPolicy/Acts/ohsact.htm)
- National Childcare Accreditation Council Inc – [www.ncac.gov.au](http://www.ncac.gov.au)
- The Royal Life Saving Association of Australia water safety tips - [www.royallifesaving.com.au/www/html/476-water-safety-tips.asp](http://www.royallifesaving.com.au/www/html/476-water-safety-tips.asp)

At all times, the staff will be aware of the children's safety and health when playing with water.

### Evaluation

Supervision and access to water within the Centre is managed effectively by staff to ensure children remain safe and healthy.



This sample policy is for information purpose only. You are welcome to use this material, with acknowledgement to Community Child Care Co-operative (NSW).