



3.7 Water Safety Policy

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Aims

Cootamundra Preschool's aim is to prevent child accidents and illness relating to water hazards as per the legislative requirements below. The Education & Care Services National Regulations No 124 clearly states that swimming pools are prohibited from early childhood centres. It is known that 0-2 year olds can drown in as little as 5cm of water. Whilst this cause of death may be rare in 3-5 year olds, there are nonetheless other water based activities and facilities that can present a threat to the safety of older preschoolers, such as toilets, wading pools, buckets of water, water play trays etc.

Legislative Requirements

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Children (Education and Care National Law Application) Act 2010

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2001

Who Is Effected By This Policy?

Children

Staff

Parents

Families

Management

Relevant Early Childhood Professional Standards

Early Childhood Code of Ethics: 1-1, IV-2, IV-3, VI-1

Early Years Learning Framework: Outcomes 1.1, 1.2

Education & Care Services Australian National Regulations: 85-87, 89, 99, 100, 101, 102, 136,168(2a,3), 274

National Quality Framework: Quality areas – 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 3.1.2, 3.2.2, 7.1.2

Sources/References

Kidsafe Australia Information Sheets (retrieved January 2012) www.kidsafe.com.au
(Retrieved January 2012)

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Westmead Children's Hospital (retrieved January 2012): www.chw.edu.au
(Retrieved January 2012)

Child and Youth Health (retrieved January 2012) www.cyh.com
(Retrieved January 2012)

The Royal Life Saving Association of Australia: Water Safety Tips (retrieved January 2012):
www.royallifesaving.com.au/www/html/476-water-safety-tips.asp
(Retrieved January 2012)

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Procedures

To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to wading pools and other water hazards Cootamundra Preschool will ensure that:

1.1 All water play activities will be supervised continuously by a staff member. Staff may interchange as needed, but know to ensure someone will remain observant of the area. This aspect of safety is included in the staff induction process (see 'Staffing Policy' point 2.2)

1.2 There must be one staff member present who has a First Aid Certificate

1.3 Wading pools/water troughs etc must be emptied immediately after every use and stored so as to prevent the collection of water. Staff will also check the preschool playground after rain or normal watering of the garden, and empty water that has collected in containers

1.4 In relation to wading troughs, (as well as the above):

- The wading/water trough will be disinfected after each use
- Children with diarrhea, open sores or nasal infections will not share a wading 'pool' with other children
- All children will wear clean bathers and go to the toilet before entering the pool
- If a child passes a bowel or bladder motion while in a wading pool, all children will be removed from the pool immediately and it will be emptied and disinfected
- A wading pool must be set up in a shaded position and children will also be protected from the sun by using sun block. (Further details regarding sun protection procedures are in this centre's 'General Hygiene & Wellbeing Policy')

1.5 Any grey water systems or water tanks will be labelled with 'Do not drink' signage. As preschoolers are not readers, staff will continually remind children of what the sign states and explain why. Tank taps must be turned off tightly so that children could not open them. Children will be supervised in this area to make sure they are not accessing this water for drinking

1.6 Staff will obtain parent/s written permission for their children to use a wading pool

1.7 Before children are taken on any excursion staff are to complete a risk assessment. The risk assessment will contain any hazards that may be a potential risk to the children (this includes any water, such as creek or pond) and assessed whether it be a Low, Medium or High risk. If excursions that are assessed as being a Medium – High risk, there must be a 1:3 ratio.

The Director will ensure that this policy is maintained and implemented at all times.

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