



WATER SAFETY POLICY

1.Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure all children are safe around water including during any water based activities.

2. Scope:

This policy applies to:

- Little Saints Early learning Centre (the Service) and
- St Andrew's After School & Vacation Care (the Service)

3.Policy Statement:

The Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor and educators understand the risks that water based activities pose and will undertake measures to protect the health and safety of all children involved in water based activities.

4.Details:

Educators must:

- complete a risk assessment before allowing children to engage in water based activities at the service or on excursion and must ensure all risks are minimised or eliminated where possible.
- ensure no child swims in any water without:
 - written permission from parents.
 - appropriate educator/child ratios in place and adequate supervision.
- closely supervise children at all times and never leave any child unattended near water.
- ensure children with diarrhoea, upset stomachs, open sores or nasal infections do not swim or play in water.
- ensure all children wear appropriate swimmers in a pool, go to the toilet before entering the pool, and follow correct toileting hygiene practices while in the pool.
- remove all children immediately if a child passes a bowel motion in the pool, advise pool managers if at a public pool, disinfect and empty a water trough.

To prevent accidents and illnesses related to water based activities at the Service educators must:

- fill uncertified wading pools with less than 300 mm of water. (Under the State Building Act 1975, pools that hold more than 300 mm of water, or hold more than 2000 litres, or have a filtration system must obtain a certificate from a licensed building certifier stating that the pool complies with the pool safety standard before the pool is filled with more than 300 mm of water. These pools must also have building approval and be registered.)

- remove any items or objects that could be used to climb into the fenced area of a pool, trough, or water storage unit e.g. chairs, bins, bikes, any overhanging trees.
- immediately empty all wading pools/water troughs etc. after every use and store in a way that prevents water collecting in them (e.g. upright/inverted).
- ensure children's play areas are safely fenced off from water hazards like rivers, dams, creeks, lakes, irrigation channels, wells.
- check grounds after rain or watering and empty water that has collected in holes or containers.
- ensure all pools and troughs in which children play are hygienically cleaned, disinfected in accordance with the instructions on the container.
- For wading pools and trough educators must:
 - remove leaves and debris daily
 - hose away surface dirt
 - scrub inside with soapy water and rinse it away before refilling

5.Measuring Tools:

The following measuring tools will be used:

- Daily playground checklist
- Excursion Risk Assessment

6.Sources & Further Reading:

- National Quality Standard QA2
- National Law (2011)
- National Regulations (2012)
- The Australian Early Childhood Association

7.Links to Other Policies:

- Workplace Health & Safety Policy