



# Padthaway Preschool

## Water Safety Policy

### Rationale

Drowning and near drowning is an obvious hazard associated with water. In Australia, drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death for children aged 1 to 4. While swimming pools are an obvious hazard, it is important to be aware that children can drown in as little as 5cm of water. Other drowning hazards for young children include buckets, baths, water containers, wading pools, ponds, spas and poor drainage areas that allow water to pool.

Water play experiences are an important and common part of Preschool learning in order for them to have opportunities to develop their understanding of the natural environment. Experiences with water encourage active sensory exploration and discovery of environmental elements. Knowledge of potential hazards associated with water will assist staff to provide a safe, stimulating environment for preschool children.

### Staff Responsibilities

This policy is for implementation whenever water is present in the learning environment (including locations outside of the main Preschool space)

It is an expectation that all staff and volunteers will use the following water safety strategies:

- ▶ Children must be adequately supervised at all times when having access to any potential water hazard
- ▶ Staff will actively monitor the use of free flowing water from taps and in the sandpit areas to ensure large volumes of water are not present for prolonged or unsupervised periods of time.
- ▶ Where a water vessel is used for water play by children, the vessel is to be covered when not in use throughout the day, emptied at the end of each day and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use.
- ▶ When children are taken on an excursion where there is a significant water hazard, educators are to conduct a risk assessment in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 100 and 101 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2018.
- ▶ Educators develop an understanding water safety with children within curriculum planning and are active participants in the risk benefit process. Discussions focus on how to be safe in and around water.
- ▶ Cold water only is accessible in child height sinks. Plugs have been removed from bathroom sinks to prevent blockages and filling of water.
- ▶ Staff hold the appropriate first aid qualifications and are kept up to date.

### Links to the National Quality Standards

- 2.1 Each child's health is promoted.
- 2.1.1 Each child's health needs are supported.
- 2.2.1 At all times, reasonable precautions ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

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