

Policy Title:	Water Safety
Effective Date:	April 2011
Review Date:	As needed by the policy and procedure sub-committee

POLICY STATEMENT

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.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE

- Statutory Legislation and guidelines
- Policy information collected from Community Childcare Co-operative (NSW).

POLICY DETAIL/ BUSINESS RULES

- Children will be encouraged to drink water from water bottles/containers only, which are clearly labelled with child's name.
- To ensure children drink from clean bottles/containers, educators will regularly remind parents to take child's bottle home at the end of each day to be cleaned. .
- Educators will ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level.
- Water play experiences will be supervised by staff at all times.
- Water play containers and troughs will be emptied after each use, children will be encouraged to use the used water to water garden and plants as a way of recycling water.
- Children will be discouraged by staff to drink water used for play experiences.
- Centre programs will encourage understandings of water conservation and the value of water in children's learning.
- Children will be provided with clean drinking water at all times.
- Buckets used for general cleaning in the Centre, will be cleaned after each use and supervised by adults at all times.
- The Centre will regularly check water temperature to ensure hot water accessible to children remains at 43.5 Degrees Celsius.
- The Director is responsible for arranging a plumber to test the thermostatic valves annually.
- Educators will use their breaks to consume hot beverages away from children, hot beverages will not be permitted in playrooms or in the children's playground.
- Excursions will not be located near bodies of water. If an excursion occurs where children must pass water, educators will ensure that correct educator : child ratios are met as per the National Care and Education Regulation 2012 and follow all guidelines as set out in Centre **Excursion Policy**.
- The Outdoor play area 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 including drying wet play equipment and emptying water containers and pools of water prior to children entering the outdoor environment.

AUTHORITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

The Centre Director is responsible for ensuring all ICC educators have training in this policy. All ICC educators are accountable for the implementation of this policy.

