

JUNEE PRESCHOOL POLICIES

Water Safety Policy

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

Policy Statement

The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. Whilst water hazards at our service are kept to a minimum, we acknowledge that water troughs, sinks and toilets can all be hazardous for children and diligent supervision is required.

Goals / What are we going to do?

Our service has a responsibility to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of each child at all times. Drowning is the leading cause of death for children aged 1-4 years in Australia. While most drowning occurs in backyard swimming pools, it is important to be aware that children can drown in as little as 6cm of water.

Strategies / How will it be done?

Water Safety

- ◁ Children will be supervised at all times in and around any body of water including water troughs, and toilets.
- ◁ A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water.
- ◁ The thermostat on the hot water system is set to a medium temperature to ensure children are not able to scald themselves when washing hands.
- ◁ Children requiring bathing will be showered rather than immersed in a bath.
- ◁ When consuming tea and coffee, educators will ensure children's safety by using a travel mug/mug with a lid to prevent spillage and putting the container up high and out of the reach of children, when it is necessary to sit it somewhere.

JUNEE PRESCHOOL POLICIES

Water Hygiene

- ◁ Educators will discuss with the children that water in troughs/containers is for the purpose of play and not for consumption.
- ◁ Water for pets at the service will be changed regularly and not accessible to children unless supervised by an adult.
- ◁ Water containers of any sort will be emptied or covered when not in use.
- ◁ Spare drink bottles will be emptied and cleaned daily.

Roles and Responsibilities

Approved Provider

- ◁ Ensure the service operates in line with the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations 2011.

Nominated Supervisor

- ◁ Ensure children are adequately supervised, are not subject to inappropriate discipline, and are protected from harms and hazards.
- ◁ Provide supervision, guidance and advice to ensure adherence to the policy at all times.
- ◁ Ensure risk assessments for excursions planned near water identify a higher staff to child ratio to ensure adequate supervision.
- ◁ Ensure First Aid and CPR qualifications and requirements are met at all times.
- ◁ Provide families with community messages regarding safe water practices.
- ◁ Supply information to families about local swimming lessons when available.

Early Childhood Educators

- ◁ Embed water safety messages into the children's education program.
- ◁ Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied or covered securely after use.
- ◁ Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use.
- ◁ No cleaning buckets are to be left in areas or accessible to children.

Families

- ◁ Reinforce water safety practice with children.

JUNEE PRESCHOOL POLICIES

SOURCES

- ◁ Kidsafe NSW – www.kidsafensw.org/watersafety
- ◁ Kids Alive – www.kidsalive.com.au
- ◁ Kids Health – <http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/water-safety.html>

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

This policy will be monitored to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and unless deemed necessary through the identification of practice gaps, the service will review this Policy every two years.

Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review process and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.

In accordance with R. 172 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations, the service will ensure that families of children enrolled at the service are notified at least 14 days before making any change to a policy or procedure that may have significant impact on the provision of education and care to any child enrolled at the service; a family's ability to utilise the service; the fees charged or the way in which fees are collected.

Related Legislation

- ◁ Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 167
- ◁ Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulation 168(2)(h)&(a)(iii)