



Vale Park Preschool

Water Safety Policy

Purpose

To outline the procedures that apply to managing water safety, including safety during any water-based activities in all Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) preschool sites, in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 168 (2) (iii) of the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.

Scope

This procedure applies to all educators and volunteers in a DECD preschool service.

Objectives

Children need opportunities to develop their understanding of the natural environment. Experiences with water encourage active exploration and discovery of the environment. Knowledge of potential hazards associated with water will assist educators to provide a safe, stimulating environment for preschool children.

Policy Details

Children must be adequately supervised at all times when having access to any water hazards. Where a water vessel is used for water play by children, the vessel is to be emptied after use and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use. When children are taken on an excursion to swim or 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 2011*. Children are to have safe independent access to clean and cool drinking water at all times.

Roles and Responsibilities

Educators and Volunteers at a DECD preschool are responsible for managing water hazards by:

- Ensuring water containers are safely covered or inaccessible to children in the education and care setting/service.
- Ensuring wading/paddling pools or water play containers are emptied after each use and stored to prevent the collection of water.

This policy will be shared with all new educators and families, and available on the website and in the preschool policies folder.

This policy has been developed in consultation with the Governing Council, staff and families of the centre.

This policy will be reviewed and evaluated regularly and modified as required to ensure continued relevance for the centre.

The Governing Council endorsed this policy on:

8th September 2016

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Chairperson

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Director