

WATER SAFETY POLICY

Related Quality Area	QA1: Health and Safety
Related Policies	Physical Environment Policy Child-Safe Environment Policy Supervision Policy Incident, Injury, accident and Illness Policy Sun Safety Policy

PURPOSE

This Policy relates to water play, excursions near or with water involved, hot water, and hygiene practices with water in the Nightcliff Family Centre (the Centre) environment.
To ensure the safety and supervision of children in and around water.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management, and visitors of the Centre.

IMPLEMENTATION

Learning spaces and environments should offer an array of possibilities and connect children with natural materials. Water is one experience that offers children sensory-rich, open-ended experiences that engage children's curiosity and imagination. Children may encounter these resources in the Centre environment and/or when on excursions. These experiences, especially those conducted with and near water, will be carefully supervised ensuring the safety of children and adults.

Water safety relates to access to water in the building, the playground, or on excursions, and also to the availability of drinking water for children.

It is imperative that educators remain vigilant in their supervision of children in and around water and are alert to potential risks in everyday in the learning environment.

MANAGEMENT/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR/ RESPONSIBLE PERSON WILL:

- Provide direction and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety and supervision in and around water.
- Ensure health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and water play.
- Ensure swimming pools are isolated from children by a child-resistant barrier or no swimming pool at the Centre at all.
- Conduct a risk assessment per the requirements before taking children on an excursion near water.
- Ensure at least one Educator who holds a current approved first aid qualification is in attendance at all times during an excursion near water.
- Display a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) guide near the swimming pool.
- Ensure water hazards and water play are always supervised.
- Ensure hot water is inaccessible to children.

EDUCATORS WILL:

- Supervise children near water at all times. The ratio for swimming pool/ water activities supervision is 1:5, with one educator per five children

- Never leave children alone near any water.
- Ensure adequate supervision is provided when participating in water activities, including:
 - direct and constant monitoring of children
 - careful and intentional positioning of educators
 - scanning and moving around the environment
 - observing play and anticipating behaviour
 - ensuring higher adult-to-child ratios
 - ensuring no child is left unattended when in proximity to water
- Utilise water activities in appropriate weather as part of the planned program.
- Allow the children the opportunity to experiment with water, sand, and mixing materials.
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water as part of the educational program
- Monitor all taps on the premises that children have access to and ensure they are turned off securely when not in use.
- Safely cover or make inaccessible to children all water containers.
- Empty wading pools immediately after every use, and store to prevent the collection of water, e.g. upright.
- After rainfall or watering gardens check for and empty any water that has collected in holes or containers.
- Ensure buckets of water for soaking toys or clothing are inaccessible to children.
- Children will be discouraged from drinking from water play activities.
- Ensure laundry, storerooms and Educator areas are to have Staff only signs on doors to remind adults to close doors behind them.
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water.
- Ensure pool is hygienically cleaned, disinfected and chlorinated appropriately prior to use
- Check chlorine levels frequently.
- Children with diarrhoea, upset stomach, open sores or nasal infections should not use the pool.
- All children should wear appropriate swimwear/rash shirts/bathers, go to the toilet before entering the pool, and follow correct toilet hygiene practices while in the pool.
- Remove all children immediately, empty and disinfect the pool should a child pass a bowel motion whilst in the pool/wading pools

OPERATIONAL SAFETY

- Educators will discuss with the children the use of water tank water and how it differs from drinking water.
- Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5° which will be tested annually.
- Water for pets at the Centre must be changed daily and only be accessible to children when educators are present.

Important:

Parents/guardians will be notified as soon as practicable but within 24 hours if their child is involved in an incident/accident at the Centre or while under Centre care. Details of the incident/accident will be recorded on an Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record.

If the incident/accident, situation or event presents imminent or severe risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of the child or if an ambulance was called in response to the emergency (not as a precaution) the regulatory authority will be notified within 24 hours.

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED BY	Judy Rondon	Director	February 2024
POLICY REVIEWED	February 2024	NEXT REVIEW DATE	February 2026
MODIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> regular policy maintenance to ensure compliance and contains up to date 'best practice' sources updated 		

POLICY REVIEWED BY	Judy Rondon	Director	
POLICY REVIEWED	February 2026	NEXT REVIEW DATE	February 2028
MODIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Teach children about staying safe in and around water as part of the educational program" added 		