



## WATER SAFETY

### AIM

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 nappy buckets, water troughs, sinks and toilets can all be hazardous for children and diligent supervision is required. Alstonville Nestle In Childcare Centre will ensure children's safety and wellbeing is protected in and around water through supervision.

Clean, hygienic water will be available for children during play and for drinking.

### EXPLANATION

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. The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. 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.

### IMPLEMENTATION

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Provide guidance and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water.
- Ensure work, health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and play.

Educators and staff will:

- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. These activities will be supervised at all times and containers or troughs will be emptied onto garden areas after use. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these

March 2012 1

March 2015

To be reviewed March 2017

water activities.

- Teach children about staying safe in and around water.
- Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No buckets are left in play areas or accessible to children.
- Clean drinking water will be available to children at all times. Families are encouraged to supply a clean drink bottle for their child to consume water daily. Staff and Educators will ensure drink bottles are in children's lockers at the end of the day for cleaning.
- In the event that drink bottles are not taken home for cleaning, staff will ensure drink bottles are washed thoroughly.

#### Operations:

- Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5oC. Thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber.
- 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.
- Adults may carry and consume hot drinks only in a thermal cup or mug with a screw lid that prevents spilling. An exception to this is if the cup or mug of hot liquid is consumed in the staff room.

## **SELF ASSESSMENT**

- 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.
- Supervision and access to water within the service is managed effectively by educators to ensure children remain safe and healthy.
- Analysis of incident and accident reports.

## **SOURCE**

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010  
Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011  
National Health and Medical Research Council - [www.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au)  
NSW Department of Health -[www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)  
Pool and Water Safety - [www.kidsafe.com.au](http://www.kidsafe.com.au)

## **REVIEW**

Every two years  
To be reviewed March 2017

March 2012 2  
March 2015  
**To be reviewed March 2017**