



The Pines Preschool



Water Safety Policy

Rationale

Drowning and near drowning is an obvious hazard associated with water. In Australia, drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death for children aged 1 to 4. While swimming pools are an obvious hazard, it is important to be aware that children can drown in as little as 5cm of water. Other drowning hazards for young children include buckets, baths, water containers, wading pools, ponds, spas and poor drainage areas that allow water to pool.

At preschool we provide children with water play experience in order for them to have opportunities to develop their understanding of the natural environment. Experiences with water encourage active sensory 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.

National Quality Standards

Regulation 168 (2) (iii), Education and Care Services National Regulations 2018.

Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety

At our preschool:

- At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard

There are also links to:

Quality Area 1: Educational program and practice

Quality Area 3: Physical environment

Educators Responsibilities

This policy is for implementation whenever potential water hazards are present. It is an expectation that all educators and volunteers will use the following water safety strategies:

- Children must be adequately supervised at all times when having access to any potential water hazard.
- Where a water vessel is used for water play by children, the vessel is to be covered when not in use throughout the day and emptied at the end of each day, and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use.
- Removable tap handles are to be stored in areas inaccessible to children.
- 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 2018*.

References:

- Education and Care Services National Regulations, 2018.
- National Quality Standards, 2018.
- Department Policies available at: <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/department/policies>