WATER SAFETY

Quality Area 2: Children’s Health and Safety

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulation 161

Link to national Quality Standard: 2.1.1, 2.3.2, 7.3.5

INTRODUCTION

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

This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practises with water in the service environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

GOALS

Children’s safety and well - being will:

* Be protected in and around water through supervision and prevention; and
* Be promoted through the availability of clean, hygienic water play and for drinking.

STRATEGIES

**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 practises 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 the garden areas after use. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these 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.
* Provide clean drinking water at all times. This water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming.

OPPERATIONAL SAFETY:

Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of :

43.5 Degrees Celsius.

Thermostat valves to be tested and serviced annually by a Plummer.

A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focussed 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 on lid that prevents spills.

Water for pets at the setting must be changed regularly and only accessible to the children when adults are present.

EVALUATION

Supervision and access to water within the service is managed effectively by staff to ensure children remain safe and healthy.