

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: 168 Links to National Quality Standard: 2.1.1; 2.3.2; 7.3.5

Water Safety

Introduction

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 service environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

Goals

Children's safety and wellbeing will:

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

Strategies

The Nominated Supervisor will:

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

Educators and staff will:

1. 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 water activities.
2. Teach children about staying safe in and around water.
3. Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No buckets are left in play areas or accessible to children.
4. Provide clean drinking water at all times. This water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming.

The National Regulations do not specify how often policies should be reviewed but Policies should be looked at and reviewed as regulations/legislation or circumstances change or arise and kept in line with changes in the industry or Preschool, and with current research and contemporary views on best practice. We acknowledge Community Child Care Cooperative for use of their example policies to develop our services policies.

Date Adopted: 2nd August 2000

Date Reviewed: July 2013 Due for Review: July 2014

Date Amended:

Forest Hill Community Preschool Inc. Policies and Procedures

Operational Safety

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.

Water for pets at the setting must be changed regularly and only be accessible to 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.

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