

Preschool Water Safety Procedure

Introduction

At North Ingle Preschool we pride ourselves on ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our students at all times.

The most common factor for childhood drowning is lack of active supervision. A child can drown silently in as little as 5cm of water in less than 20 seconds. Young children especially pre-schoolers are most at risk of drowning as young children are naturally drawn to it, they do not understand the danger and they are top heavy (their head is large in comparison to their body) and they tend to fall

Kid Safe

It is crucial that the Preschool ensure the correct water safety procedures are followed at all times!

Water Hazards

- A water hazard is anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth. Water hazards at North Ingle Preschool include
 - Sinks, basins, fish tank, yabby tank, toy baths
 - Sandpit, mud kitchen, clam shells, black pond, toilet
 - Containers, buckets used for play, animal drinking containers
 - Pooling water

Active Supervision

- Children must be actively supervised at all times when there is a risk of access to any water hazard. Active supervision includes
 - Direct and constant monitoring of children – within arm's length (within 1-2 metres)
 - Careful intentional positioning
 - Scanning and moving around the area
 - Listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
 - Observing play and anticipating behaviour

Managing Water Hazards

- Eliminating Hazards – water must be emptied immediately after use and stored in a manner that prevents vessel filling with water when not in use. All aspects of the environment must be designed to ensure adequate drainage of water to avoid pooling.
- Restricting access – compliant fencing or barrier
- All troughs, buckets and plastic clam shells must be emptied immediately after use and stored upside down and out of children's reach,
- Access to kitchen areas must be restricted when unattended by adults.

Educators Responsibilities

- Comply with this policy and the Department for Education procedures
- Maintain and update risk assessments when utilising water play
- Update and report identified hazards and notify other people in the immediate vicinity that a hazard is present
- An educator can respond immediately, particularly when a child is distressed or in hazardous situation
- Knowing where children are at all times and monitoring their activities actively and diligently

This procedure is guided by:

- *Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations*
- *Preschool water safety procedure Department for Education*
- *Kid Safe Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia – Water Safety in Education and Care Settings*
- *Water Safety for Preschools*

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