

Policy 6.23 Water Play Policy

Policy Statement:

At Ballan Community Child Care, we recognise the sensory benefits gained by children engaged in safe water play activities. Our Centre believes that water play is essential in developing literacy and numeracy skills as well as scientific discovery abilities and environmental awareness in children while assisting them in their fine motor skills as they learn to grasp, measure, pour, discover the basic concept of water displacement and water energy and experiment with diffusion.

Similarly, we also recognise and understand that a child can drown in as little as 5cm of water and we take our responsibility to provide a safe, resource rich learning environment seriously

Further, we recognise that water has the capacity to be a heavy material and as such require staff to follow appropriate OH&S guidelines relating to back care and safety of equipment when moving or securing vessels containing water.

Centre Practice:

- Ensure that all staff have up to date First Aid Certificates
- Closely supervise children near water at all times. Children will be supervised closely by an adult when engaging in water play activities such as using buckets to collect water for the sandpit, or using watering cans for the garden.
- Teach children about water safety
- Ensure that the staff bathroom, laundry and kitchen doors are closed to children's unsupervised access
- Supervise children's bathroom routines at all times
- Ensure that all water carrying vessels that can reasonably present a drowning hazard for children are supervised at all time that water is present within them
- Ensure that children are encouraged to safely explore the properties of water, building water safety messages into our programming as appropriate
- Provide families with water safety information including the availability of learn to swim programs offered in the local area, beach, river and dam safety information and water safety in the home information
- Seek assistance from families in providing a spare set of clothing for their child in the event that the child becomes uncomfortably wet during a session of water play
- Minimise water waste and reinforce the water conservation message by ensuring that only such water as is required to undertake a programmed water play activity is placed within the vessel. We will further ensure that our programming reflects the appropriate environmental water-wise message when water play activities are planned
- Ensure that all water carrying vessels that can reasonably present a drowning hazard for children are emptied at the end of each water play activity and removed from access by children
- Ensure that all water carrying vessels that can reasonably present a drowning hazard for children are stored in a manner to prevent the inadvertent collection of water through natural causes such as rain
- Ensure that all water carrying vessels are emptied and allowed to dry thoroughly at the end of each water play activity to prevent the build-up of potentially harmful bacteria and mould
- Ensure children thoroughly wash and dry their hands following Centre procedures after each water play activity too reduce the risk of cross infection

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References:

- National Quality Standard – elements 2.3.1, 2.3.2
- Pentland Childcare & Kindergarten Policy Manual