



Water Safety Policy

Rationale

- Children are naturally drawn to water but unfortunately there are great risks of drowning amongst children aged 0-4. Due to children's understanding of danger and their top heaviness of their body this provides a significant risk. Water is an important component of our curriculum as it provides opportunities for sensory play, numeracy, engineering, science, and problem solving. At Darlington Children's Centre we have many opportunities for children to play with water which includes:
 - The mud kitchen
 - Water troughs
 - Water /hoses in the sandpit
 - Potential excursions nature spaces with water (e.g., creek/pond)

The Director will:

- Ensure that the thermostatic valves are tested and serviced annually
- Flush the water every 12 months in week 0 term 1
- Have water filters changed annually
- Support the development and review of risk assessments and the review of policies and procedures

Educators will:

- Conducts a water safety risk assessment that is reviewed every 12 months
- Supervise children at all times when having access to any water hazards, such as a water trough. 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 at the water trough
 - Careful and intentional positioning
 - Scanning and moving around the area
 - Listening closely for absence of noise
 - Observing play and anticipating behaviour
 - Conducting risk assessments for individual children that require additional support
- Where a water vessel e.g., a water trough is used for water play, the vessel will be emptied immediately after use and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use (e.g., upside down or in the shed)



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Government
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- Conduct an individual risk assessment for children if additional supervision is required
- After a big rain do a walk around of the outdoor environment and sweep up any large pools or puddles of water
- Stop children from accessing the staff kitchen without a staff member present. This gate to be closed to prevent access to hot water/chemicals
- Conduct a risk assessment prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water.
- Ensure that at all times, when children are present, there must be at least one staff member with a current approved first aid qualification.

To be reviewed : May 2027

Governing Council Chairperson: Alison Riddell

Kindergarten Director: Kim Cook

May 2024

R168 (a) (iii) Water safety

National Quality Standards 2.12., 2.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2

