



LAURA
PRESCHOOL | RURAL CARE
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Water safety procedure

National Quality Standard Area 2 | Children's health and safety

2.2.1 At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

Purpose

Statistics show that 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 and for every 1 child who drowns, 10 others are rescued from a near drowning incident. Children love to play with water and do not understand the danger of water. Moreover, children are top heavy and have a tendency to fall. A water hazard is anything that can hold 5cm of water and fits a child's nose and mouth. This policy aims to eliminate or minimise water hazards for children at our centre whilst allowing them to experience water play.

Reporting water hazards

- Water hazards and corrective actions are reported via IRMS.

Risk assessment

- Risk assessments are completed for all site-based water hazards and water-based activities using the [WHS general risk assessment template \(DOC 612.0KB\)](#).
- Water hazards are considered in risk assessments for excursions including routine excursions using the [camps and excursions risk management plan \(DOCX, 2MB\)](#). Excursions to a location where there is a significant water hazard (e.g. beach, pool, creek) are not considered appropriate for children aged 0-5 years.

Managing water hazards

Active supervision

Children are actively supervised at all times around water, including water play in the creek bed, sandpit and when using the water tray. 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



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- Observing play and anticipating behaviour

Eliminating hazards and restricting access

- Water vessels (e.g. buckets, water tray) are emptied immediately after use and stored in a manner that prevents them filling with water when not in use.
- Water pooling to a depth of 5cm or more is reported as a hazard. Immediate corrective action is taken (e.g. shovelling sand/soil into the area to soak up the water or using a barrier to restrict access). Longer term corrective action to address drainage is taken through Facilities Management.

Site-specific hazards

Sinks and basins

- Plugs are not provided in the children's bathroom.
- Staff members must ensure that children in a bath are directly supervised at all times (an educator is to remain in touch contact of young children at all times while being bathed and/or while water is still in the bath).

Water receptacles: buckets, troughs and other containers

- Active supervision (see above) is provided at all times when children are playing with water >5cm deep in a container that can fit a child's mouth and nose.
- Water vessels (e.g. buckets, water tray) are emptied immediately after use.

Sandpit and water course

- Active supervision (see above) is provided at all times when children are playing in the sandpit with water that is either:
 - Pooled to a depth of >5cm, or
 - Used to fill containers that can fit a child's mouth and nose to a depth of >5cm.
- Educators monitor drainage and any pooling to >5cm is reported and addressed as above.
- Educators monitor the prevalence of insects (mosquitos, bees) attracted by the water course.

Supporting information

[Kidsafe Water safety in education and care settings](#)

Approvals

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Approved by: Leanne Opperman | Principal, Laura Primary School

Approved by: Ricky Pech | Governing Council, Laura Primary School

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