



Thorndon Park Kindergarten

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Water Safety Procedure

Rationale

At Thorndon Park Kindergarten we acknowledge that Water play is an engaging sensory experience and provides opportunity for children to strengthen their imaginative play skills. As children experiment and explore with pouring, measuring, carrying and squeezing in their water play, they are supporting the development of their fine and gross skills and numeracy and literacy development, play skills, exploration and natural curiosity.

National Quality Standards and Regulations

This policy has been developed to ensure the safety of children in our care and has been created and consistent with the requirements of the Department for Education Preschool Water Safety Procedure, Kidsafe Water Safety in Education and Care Settings and The National Quality Standards Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety Element 2:2:1.



1. TITLE

Water Safety Procedure

2. PURPOSE

To outline the procedures that apply to managing water safety, including safety during any water-based activities at Thorndon Park Kindergarten, in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 168 (2) (iii) of the Education and Care Services National Regulations. At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

3. OBJECTIVES

1. Children need opportunities to develop their understanding of the natural environment. Experiences with water encourage active exploration and discovery of the environment.
2. Knowledge of potential hazards associated with water will assist educators to provide a safe, stimulating environment for preschool children.
3. Drowning and near drowning is an obvious hazard associated with water. While swimming pools are an obvious hazard, other drowning hazards for young children include buckets, animal water containers, ponds and poor drainage that allows for water to pool.

4. POLICY DETAILS

4.1 At Thorndon Park Kindergarten we know that:

- Children love to play with water and are drawn to it.
- A water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth. Water hazards in children's learning environments include:
 - sinks, basins, mop buckets, pretend baby baths
 - sandpit, watercourse and pooling water
 - water troughs, containers, mud kitchen pots and pans and buckets used for play.
 - animal drinking containers and bird baths

4.2 Educators at Thorndon Park Kindergarten will:

- Complete a risk assessment, identifying specific site based water safety risks and update it annually as a staff team.
- Provide active supervision when children have access to any of the water hazards listed above
- Ensure intentional positioning of water troughs, containers and buckets used for play
- Ensure intentional positioning of educators while children are engaging in water play for optimal supervision around potential water hazards
- Remain alert and listen closely for sounds or absence of noise
- Observe children's play and anticipate behaviour
- Eliminate hazards after use. All water will be emptied immediately after use and stored away to prevent water pooling when not in use (e.g. in the shed, placed upside down or on its side)
- Empty any water hazards that may have collected water throughout the day after rainfall
- Fill troughs or containers for water play to a safe level of 300mm
- Educate children about water safety
- Complete a risk assessment prior to any excursions near water
- Encourage children to change into dry clothes if they become very wet during water play activities.

4.3 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Kidsafe and Department water safety in education and care settings PDF available on the Department for Education intranet site for educators.

5. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Roles and responsibilities

Kindergarten director and staff monitor and review the effectiveness of the sun safe and hot weather policy, along with the Governing Council, as required (minimum every three years).

Approvals

File: Water safety procedure

Status: [approved](#)

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Policy officer: [Samantha Chirgwin, Thorndon Park Kindergarten](#)

Approved by: [Governing Council Management Committee](#)

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