

# BERMAGUI PRESCHOOL



## 4.26 Water Safety

### Written By

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### Aim

The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the service environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

Children's safety and wellbeing will:

- be protected in and around water through supervision and prevention; and
- be promoted through the availability of clean, hygienic water for play and for drinking.

### Strategies

#### The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Provide guidance and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water.
- Ensure work, health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and play.

#### Educators and staff will:

- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. These activities will be supervised at all times and containers or troughs will be emptied onto garden areas after use. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities.
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water.
- Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No buckets are left in play areas or accessible to children.
- Provide clean drinking water at all times. This water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming. Water containers will be securely sealed so as not to accumulate water when not in use. At the end of each day, the water container will be emptied and cleaned thoroughly.

#### Operational Safety

- Grey water systems or water tanks will be labelled with "do not drink" signage and the children will be supervised in this area to make sure they are not accessing this water for drinking.
- Educators will discuss with the children that this water is for the purpose of play and not for consumption. Water wise education will also be incorporated into spontaneous and planned preschool activities.
- Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5oC. Thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber.
- A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water. Children are not to enter bodies of water at any time while at Preschool or on Preschool excursions.

- Adults may carry and consume hot drinks only in a thermal cup or mug with a screw lid that prevents spilling.
- Water for pets at the setting must be changed regularly and only be accessible to children when adults are present.

### Evaluation

Supervision and access to water within the service is managed effectively by staff to ensure children remain safe and healthy.

### Relevant Legislation

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011  
Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010

### Resources & References

National Health and Medical Research Council - [www.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au)  
NSW Department of Health - [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)  
Further resources:  
Pool and Water Safety - [www.kidsafe.com.au](http://www.kidsafe.com.au)  
Water use and restrictions see - [www.sydneywater.com.au](http://www.sydneywater.com.au)

### Relevant Documentation

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### Review Date:

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