

# Preschool Water Safety Procedure

This policy should not be read in isolation. It complements the Department for Education's Water Safety Procedure.

## Rationale

We believe that early childhood is an important time for establishing a lifelong safe relationship with water. At preschool we provide children with water play experiences in order for them to have opportunities to develop their understanding of the natural environment. Experiences with water encourage active sensory exploration and discovery of the environment. Knowledge of potential hazards associated with water will assist educators to provide a safe, stimulating environment for children.

Water safety procedures keep children safe in and around water and support children's learning in a safe environment. Under the Education and Care Services National Regulations, we must ensure that procedures are in place for managing water safety, including any water based activities (regulation 168(2)(a)(iii)) and take reasonable steps to ensure those procedures are followed (regulation 170).

Para Vista Preschool operates in line with the Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010 and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011. Children's safety and wellbeing will be protected in and around water through supervision and education.

## Water Hazard

'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, fish tanks/bowls, baths
- swimming pools, portable pools, spas
- water courses, ponds, sandpits, clam shells
- water troughs, containers and buckets used for play, animal drinking containers
- pooling water

## Responsibilities of the Educators

Educators will:

- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied or covered securely after use
- Buckets filled with water for cleaning are to be filled immediately before use and emptied and thoroughly cleaned immediately after use. No cleaning buckets are to be left in areas accessible to children
- Equipment will be stored away from the elements to prevent collection/pooling of water. The garden will be checked after watering or rain and any water collected will be emptied / drained
- Discourage children from drinking grey water. Always provide clean drinking water
- Supervise children in toilet facilities within the service
- Write and implement risk assessments for activities that involve water
- Respect water as a precious resource by encouraging children to turn taps off, only use what they need and have taps for water play on low
- Actively supervise children when playing with or around water. Adequate supervision includes:
  - Direct and constant supervision
  - Careful intentional positioning to children and water sources
  - Scanning and moving around the environment
  - Listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
  - Observing play and anticipating behaviour
  - Higher adult/child ratio when the need is identified from a risk assessment

## Excursions

Educators will consider water safety and potential water hazards when undertaking a risk assessment for an excursion (Education and Care Services National Regulations R 101 (2) (b))

### Working with families, health services & industry

Our Preschool provides information from [Kidsafe](#) to families and caregivers on water safety through a variety of media such as:

- Notices
- Policy consultation with Governing Council
- Information on enrolment
- Encourage families to reinforce water safe practices at home with their children.

### Related Legislation

- Education and Early Childhood Services (Registration and Standards) Act 2011, Schedule 1 Education and Care Services National Law (South Australia)
- Education and Care Services National Regulations

NQS	QA1	Educational program and practice
1.1	Program	The educational program enhances each child's learning and development
1.2	Practice	Educators facilitate and extend each child's learning and development
1.3	Assessment and planning	Educators and coordinators take a planned and reflective approach to implementing the program for each child

NQS	QA2	Children's health and safety
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected.
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed, practised and implemented.

NQS	QA3	Children's health and safety
3.2	Physical environment	Use
3.2.2	Resources support play-based learning	Resources, materials and equipment allow for multiple uses, are sufficient in number, and enable every child to engage in play-based learning

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### **Approvals Status**

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Approved by: Anita Becker | Principal, Para Vista preschool – Yr 6

Approved by: | Governing Council, Para Vista Preschool - Yr 6

Approval date: 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025 Next review date: June 2028

### **Revision record**

Version 1.1

Approved by: Anita Becker, Principal Para Vista Preschool – Yr 6

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Amendments: added headings, included detailed information about 'water hazards', Updated logo, link to DfE policy, added record history

Version 1.0

Approved by: Anita Becker, Principal, Para Vista Preschool – Yr6

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