

**Water Safety Policy**

**Date:** 10/01/20

**Signed by Management Committee** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Aim:**

To ensure that the safety of all children attending University Preschool & Childcare Centre is maintained at all times during water play experiences and on excursions near water.

To provide water sensory experiences for children to be actively involved in the learning process and engage in developmentally appropriate activities.

To provide water safety learning and awareness.

To ensure water is used sustainably.

**Background:**

University Preschool & Child Care Centre uses the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) – Being, Belonging, Becoming as a basis for curriculum planning. This is a National Curriculum Framework that was endorsed by the National Government in July 2009 for implementation in all early childhood programs across Australia. As Educators, we understand that water provides valuable learning opportunities for young children. Sensory play experiences are an important part learning, supporting the development of cognition and scientific understandings.

Water is vital to our existence; water and land management have long been a part of Aboriginal people's way of living. Respect for this natural resource, being conservative with water use and viewing users as 'water sharing' are approaches we can use to embed care for country.

Water plays a large role in the Australian and the UPCCC context. Visits to beaches, swimming pools and lakeside walks are common places children will be around water, therefore it is vital for children to develop water safety knowledge to be able to confidently be around water and assess risks.

**Related Policies:**

Curriculum Planning and Review Policy

Supervision Policy

Emergency First Aid Policy

**Practice:**

In accordance with the Education and Care Services National Regulations, under the Education and Care Services National Law (ACT) Act 2011, the following Educator:Child ratios will be maintained at all times

Children aged 0 – 2 years, 1 staff member to every 4 children or part thereof

Children aged 2 - 3 years, 1 staff member to every 5 children or part thereof

Children aged 3 - 6 years, 1 staff member to every 11 children or part thereof

1. Educators will ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. No troughs are left in play areas filled with water. Containers or troughs will be emptied onto garden areas immediately after use.
  2. It is the responsibility of all staff members to ensure that all water containers, e.g. water troughs, buckets, sinks, are emptied before the staff member leaves the area.
  3. Staff will ensure that an Educator is present to supervise the children at all times where there is any inside or outside activity involving water. This includes programmed activities, such as water play and buckets of water used for cleaning purposes. Educators will communicate with each other before changes in supervision occur.
  4. Educators will embed Aboriginal perspectives by ensuring water is used conservatively, to promote sustainable uses of water and foster care and respect for water.
  5. Water tanks will be labelled 'Do not drink', and educators will discuss with children that this water is for the purpose of gardens and play and not for consumption.
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6. Clean drinking water will be provided at all times. The water quality will be monitored to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming. At the end of each day, water containers, eg. Jugs or bottles, and drink bottles/cups (nursery, toddlers) will be emptied and cleaned thoroughly.
7. Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5oC. Thermostatic valves are tested monthly by ANU Facility and Services.
8. Adults may carry and consume hot drinks only in a thermal cup or mug with a screw lid that prevents spilling. These are not to be left unattended where children could access them.
9. 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. Where identified as necessary, additional adults will be in attendance.
10. Water safety will be discussed with children prior to excursions. Children's age and abilities are taken into consideration when experiences outside of the Centre are planned.

### **Source Material**

Australian children's Education & Care Quality Authority, National Quality Framework. Retrieved 10/01/2020 from <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-quality-standard/quality-area-2-childrens-health-and-safety>

Australian Children's Education and Care Authority (ACECQA) (2017) Quality Area 2, Active Supervision: Ensuring safety and promoting learning. Retrieved 10/01/2020 from [https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-04/QA2-ActiveSupervisionEnsuringSafetyAndPromotingLearning\\_1.pdf](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-04/QA2-ActiveSupervisionEnsuringSafetyAndPromotingLearning_1.pdf)

Education and Care Services National Regulation under the Education and Care Services National Law (ACT) Act 2011 168 Policy and procedure in relation to 2 (a) (iii) water safety, Including safety during any water-based activities

NSW Government (2012) Our Water Our Country An information manual for Aboriginal people and communities about the water reform process. Retrieved from [http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/547303/plans\\_aboriginal\\_communities\\_water\\_sharing\\_our\\_water\\_our\\_country.pdf](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/547303/plans_aboriginal_communities_water_sharing_our_water_our_country.pdf) accessed on 10/01/2020

**Date for Review:** January 2021

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