



Redwood Park Preschool

Water Safety Procedure

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

Rationale

At Redwood Park Preschool we encourage children to engage with and to explore their natural environment; including water.

The safety and active supervision of children in and around water is paramount and includes water play, excursions near water, drinking water and hygiene practices using water within the preschool environment.

According to Kidsafe, drowning continues to be one of the main causes of fatalities of Australian children. Every year a number of children die by drowning and hundreds more are rescued from near drowning situations. Non-fatal drowning incidents can have potential long-term effects, including brain damage and permanent disability.

Water Hazards

A water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth. Water hazards in a child's learning environment can include:

- sinks, basins, fish tanks, fishbowls, 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

Managing Water Hazards

Educators at Redwood Park Preschool will:

- Ensure all water-based activities are adequately supervised at all times.
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level – no more than 5cm in depth.
- If a container or water trough is filled higher than 5cm, an educator will remain within 1.5 metres of the container and closely supervise the children at all times. Containers will be emptied immediately after use, or if/when the educator needs to move away from the area.
- Store equipment to prevent collection of water.
- Check the garden after watering or rain and empty water that has collected in holes or containers.



- Ensure buckets of water used during learning experiences throughout the day are to be filled immediately before use, supervised by an educator while in use, and emptied immediately after use.
- Ensure that all children have safe independent access to clean drinking water at all times.
- 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.
- At all times, when children are present, there must be at least one staff member with a current approved first aid qualification, on the premises. It is best practice for all staff to hold current approved First Aid Certificates.

Supporting Information

- National Quality Standard and Regulations - National Quality Standard 2.3, Regulation 168 (2)(a)(iii)
- Water Safety for Preschools (DfE) – Preschool Water Safety Procedure
- Kidsafe - Water Safety in Education and Care Settings (Government of SA)
- Camps and excursions guidelines for schools and preschools (DfE)

Approved and checked

Governing Council Approval: September 2024

School Principal: Ian Dickie

Governing Council Chairperson: Renae Evans

Next Review Date: September 2027