



Water Safety Policy

Purpose:

Our kindergarten offers children a variety of opportunities to play with water, such as in puddles, creeks and the water trough. Water play supports children's learning, wellbeing and development. This policy provides guidance related to managing water hazards, preventing children from drowning.

A water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth.

Active supervision

Children will be actively supervised by educators when water hazards are present. This means:

- Careful and intentional positioning of equipment (for example, water trough in central location on grass)
- Scanning and moving around the area
- Observing play and anticipating behaviour
- Listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
- Offering water play only when the capacity for constant monitoring is achievable (such as a second educator outside)

Additionally, educators will:

- Empty containers after each use and store upside down to prevent the collection of water
- Check outdoor environment for flooding or other water hazards after rain/storms
- Maintain an approved First Aid/CPR qualification
- Regularly review site Risk Assessments:
 - *Water Safety*
 - *Gorge Walks*; including guidance for playing in creeks within Sturt Gorge

Approved by Educators and the Governing Council October 2024

Governing Council Chairperson: _____

Kindergarten Director: _____

Regulation 168(2)(a)(iii): Education and care services must have policies and procedures on water safety, including safety during any water-based activities

