



WATER SAFETY POLICY (ELC)

1 PURPOSE

Minaret College ELC has a responsibility to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of each child at all times. Drowning is the leading cause of death for children aged 1-4 years in Australia. While most drowning occurs in backyard swimming pools, it is important to be aware that children can drown in as little as a few centimeters of water.

2 SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Persons with Management or Control, Nominated Supervisor, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities offered by Minaret College Early Learning Centres.

3 STRATEGIES

- Children will be supervised at all times in and around any body of water including water troughs and toilets.
- 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.
- The hot water system is set to a medium temperature to ensure children are not able to scald themselves when washing hands.
- Educators are not permitted to consume hot drinks or prepare any hot drinks in any area accessible to children.

4 PROCEDURES

The Approved Provider is responsible for:

- ensuring the service operates in line with the Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010 and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.

The Nominated Supervisor and Persons in Day-to-Day Charge are responsible for:

- ensuring children are adequately supervised, are not subject to inappropriate discipline, and are protected from harms and hazards (National Law 166)
- provide supervision, guidance and advice to ensure adherence to the policy at all times
- ensuring risk assessments for excursions planned near water identify a higher staff to child ratio to ensure adequate supervision (National Regulation 100, 101)
- ensuring First Aid and CPR qualifications and requirements are met at all times

- providing families with community messages regarding safe water practices.

Responsibilities of the Educators:

- embedding water safety messages into the children's education program
- ensuring water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied or covered securely after use
- emptying buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No cleaning buckets are to be left in areas or accessible to children
- discouraging children from drinking grey water and provide clean drinking water at all times
- supervising children in toilet/shower facilities within the service.

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- reinforcing water safety practices with children at home.
- Volunteers and students, while at the service, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures.

5 EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Approved Provider will:

- regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required

Approved Provider PR-00002074

Early Learning Centres: Officer (SE-00011878) and Springvale (SE-40013883)

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