Hills Grammar

Water Safety Policy

Policy Statement

The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water, and hygienic practices involving water within the ECEC. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences and when they near or around water.

Rationale

Children's safety and wellbeing will be protected in and around water through supervision. Children will also have access to clean, hygienic water for play and for drinking.

Strategies

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Ensure children are supervised at all times around water and are protected from harm or hazards.
- Provide supervision, guidance and advice to ensure adherence to the policy at all times.
- Ensure risk assessments for excursions planned near water identify a higher staff to child ratio to ensure adequate supervision.
- Share information with educators, children and families about the importance of safety in and around water where children may have access.
- Ensure a staff member with first aid qualifications is rostered on at ECEC all times.
- Check that the thermostat on the hot water system is set to a medium temperature to ensure children are not able to scald themselves when washing hands.

Educators will:

- Ensure all water play experiences are supervised at all times.
- Ensure water troughs/containers are emptied into the garden immediately after use or before children and educators leave the environment.
- Supervise children in the bathroom areas.
- Ensure the children's play area are checked each morning to ensure that there are no containers or pools of water accessible to children.
- Discourage children from drinking the water used in water activities.
- Provide the children with access to clean drinking water at all times.
- Ask families to bring in a named water bottle for their child to drink water from. The water bottle should be taken home and washed daily. Educators will remind families to take water bottles home each day after use.
- Ensure children are educated with safe water consumption e.g. The difference between drinking water and play water.
- Ensure if an excursion occurs near water, appropriate measures will be in place to ensure the safety of all children.
- Consume hot drinks away from children.

Families will:

- Provide a named water bottle for their child each day.
- Ensure only water is inside their child's water bottle each day.

Statutory Legislation and Considerations

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Guide to the National Quality Standard ACECQA

Sources

Community Early Learning Australia www.cela.org.au

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) www.acecqa.gov.au

Australian Childcare Alliance www.childcarealliance.org.au

Review

This policy is reviewed by management, employees and families as required or when legislative requirements change.

Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.