



# LOCK AREA SCHOOL

WITH HEAD, HEART AND HAND

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Government  
of South Australia  
Department for Education

## Early Years Water Safety Policy

### Rationale

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 hygiene practices with water in the Centre's environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

### Aim

To ensure that the Centre will prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to water hazards, children's safety and wellbeing will be protected in and around water through supervision and prevention and be promoted through the availability of clean, hygienic water for play and drinking.

### Procedure

To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to watercourse, water troughs and other water hazards the Nominated Supervisor will:

- Provide guidance and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water.
- Ensure Work, Health and Safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and play.

To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to watercourse, water troughs and other water hazards, the Centre and staff will:

- Not install a swimming pool or wading pool on the premises.
- Closely supervise children near any water at all times, never leave children alone near any water.
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water.
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. Do not leave buckets, water play troughs or any other water hazards unsupervised in the Centre. Empty after use and cover water troughs.
- Store equipment to prevent collection of water. Check garden after watering or rain and empty water that has collected in holes or containers.
- Buckets of water used during cleaning, after craft or throughout the day are to be filled immediately before use, supervised by an adult while in use, and emptied immediately and cleaned thoroughly after use.
- Provide clean drinking water at all times.
- Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5 degrees C. Thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by plumber.
- Adults may carry and consume hot drinks only in approved thermal mugs.
- 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.
- Keep cardiopulmonary CPR guide in outdoor play area.
- At all times, when children are present, there must be at least one contact staff member with a current approved First Aid qualification on the premises. It is best practice for all contact staff to hold a current approved First Aid Certificate. All contact staff are required to keep First Aid qualifications up to date.

### Evaluation

Supervision and access to water within the service is managed efficiently by staff to ensure children remain safe and healthy.

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Policy Review in 2023