



3.22 Water Safety

Purpose

The *Education and Care Services National Regulations* require John Street to have policies and procedures on water safety, including safety during any water-based activities.

Objective

To ensure that every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury, including when children are around water or involved in water-based activities.

Definitions

CPR: Cardiopulmonary resuscitation

Scope of Policy

This policy applies to all educators, volunteers, students and families at John Street.

Policy Statement

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 5cm of water.

Water hazards at John Street are kept to a minimum; however nappy buckets, toilets, basins, and water play can be hazardous for children.

Educators maintain close supervision of children at all times, particularly where water is involved, and risk assessment strategies inform the management of water at the centre to ensure that children can experience the natural environment and engage in water play safely.

Procedures

Water Safety at John Street

- Children are closely supervised near water at all times during water-based activities.
- Children are never left alone where water is present.
- When wading pools, or similar, are used in the children's program, educators will closely

supervise children at all times.

- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) guidelines and procedures are on display in each room and outside.
- Water Safety messages will be embedded in the children's educational program where appropriate, including during water-based activities such as water play, sand play and play with elements of nature such as mud, creek beds, watering the garden and rain catching.
- Educators cover or make inaccessible to children all water containers, e.g. tubs, nappy buckets, wading pools.
- Any wading pool, tub or bucket used for water-based activities are emptied after use and stored in a way that prevents the collection of water.
- After rainfall, working bees, watering the garden or any other community access to John Street, educators check the outside environment and empty water that has collected in equipment or in containers.
- The thermostat on the hot water system is set to a medium temperature to ensure that hand washing can be carried out without risk of scalding.
- Educators do not have hot drinks (e.g. tea or coffee) when they are caring for and educating children.
- For any children that need bathing while at the centre, a bath temperature of between 37 and 38 degrees will be provided. In most cases, bathing will be done with a cloth and warm water.
- Any warm water around children will be tested to ensure that is not hot enough to cause scalding.

Water Safety outside the premises

John Street does not plan for excursions that involve children swimming as we cannot provide educators that have recognised experience in water safety and rescue procedures. However, from time to time there may be excursions to places where there is a body of water, e.g. lake or pond.

- The planning of such excursions is subject to John Street's excursions policy, including risk assessment and adult: child ratios for adequate supervision which are at a higher ratio for water-play and/or experiences near bodies of water.
- Water safety messages are built into the children's education program.
- Supervision near bodies of water on excursions is maintained by educators who hold a first aid certificate which includes CPR.
- Excursion permission forms will clearly state where bodies of water will be present, and will include added safety precautions to ensure families are informed about risk assessment procedures, and about community messages regarding water safety for families to share with their children prior to the excursion.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of all staff, educators, students and volunteers at John Street to implement this policy.

Legislative Provisions

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011:

r.168(2)(h)&(a)(ii) j)	<i>Education and Care Service must have policies and procedures in relation to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>providing a child safe environment; and</i> - <i>Water safety including safety during any water-based activities</i>
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National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care & School Age Care

Element 2.2.1	<i>At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.</i>
Element 2.2.2	<i>Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented</i>
Element 3.1.1	<i>Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child.</i>

Sources

The Better Health Channel, *Water Safety for Children*, accessed June 2018 from <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/HealthyLiving/water-safety-for-children>

Related John Street Policies, Procedures and Guidelines

Policies	<i>Supervision of Children; Interactions with Children; Occupational Health & Safety; Independent Toileting & Nappy Changes; Injury, Illness, Trauma & the Administration of First Aid; Program Planning; Communication with Families; Excursions, Routine Outings & In-House Activities; Providing a Child Safe Environment; Educational Equipment & Toys;</i>
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Authorisation

This policy was approved by the John Street Board in December 2018.