



PENNANT HILLS WAR MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S CENTRE

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PENNANT HILLS WAR MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S CENTRE (PHWMCC) WATER SAFETY POLICY

Introduction

The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. Whilst water hazards at PHWMCC are kept to a minimum, we acknowledge that water play, excursions near water, hot water, sinks and toilets can all be hazardous for children and diligent supervision is required.

Aim

We will protect the health, safety and wellbeing of each child at all times by:

- supervising children whenever they are around water
- providing clean, hygienic water for play and for drinking.

Procedure

Water Safety

- Children will be closely supervised at all times around any body of water including water troughs, mud kitchen area, water pump and rockery, and toilets.
- All bodies of water for water play will be emptied out or covered when the playground is unattended.
- 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 thermostat on the hot water system is set to a medium temperature to ensure children are not able to scald themselves when washing hands. Thermostatic valves will be tested and serviced annually by a plumber.
- Educators, families and visitors are not permitted to consume hot drinks in any area accessible to children.

Water Hygiene

- Grey water systems or water tanks will be labelled with age appropriate "do not drink" signage and the children will be supervised in this area to make sure they are not accessing this water for drinking.
- Educators will discuss with the children that this water is for the purpose of play and not for consumption.
- Water for pets at the service will be changed regularly and not accessible to children unless supervised by an adult.
- Water containers of any sort will be emptied or covered when not in use.
- Drinking water containers will be emptied and cleaned daily.
- Children will bring their own individual water bottle each day. Educators will refill these as required.

Roles and Responsibilities

Approved Provider

- Ensure the service operates in line with the *Education and Care Services National Law 2010* and *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*.

Nominated Supervisor

- Ensure children are adequately supervised and are protected from harms and 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.
- Ensure First Aid and CPR qualifications and requirements are met at all times.
- Provide families with community messages regarding safe water practices.
- Ensure work, health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and play.

Early Childhood Educators

- Embed water safety messages into the children's education program.
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied on the garden, or covered securely after use.
- Ensure water troughs or containers are only filled while in attendance by an adult at all times.
- Ensure no child is left unattended at any time with any body of water.
- Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use.
- Kettles that have been boiled will be emptied immediately after use.
- No cleaning buckets are to be left in play areas or areas that are accessible to children.
- Prevent children from drinking grey water.
- Provide clean drinking water at all times.
- While children are in attendance thermostatically controlled hot water from the tap will be used for mopping bathroom floors.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

This policy will be monitored to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and unless deemed necessary through the identification of practice gaps, the preschool will review this policy every three years.

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

In accordance with R. 172 of the *Education and Care Services National Regulations*, the service will ensure that families of children at the preschool are notified at least 14 days before making any change to a policy or procedure that may have significant impact on the provision of education and care to any child enrolled at the preschool; a family's ability to utilise the preschool; the fees charged or the ways in which fees are collected.

Definitions:

Regulatory Authority:	Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate
Approved Provider:	Pennant Hills War Memorial Children's Centre Management Committee
Nominated Supervisor:	Director of Pennant Hills War Memorial Children's Centre
Responsible Person:	Nominated Supervisor or an Educator who has been placed in day-to-day charge of the Preschool

Early Childhood Educators: Teachers and Child Care Workers

Related legislation: Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 165, 167
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 168 (2)(a)(iii) and (h), 172

Related Guidelines, Standards, Frameworks: National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children’s Health and Safety – Standard 2.1 and 2.2

Sources: Community Early Learning Australia –Water Safety Sample Policy

Relevant Documents: PHWMCC Risk Assessment Matrix
PHWMCC Excursion Policy

Policy reviewed: July 2022

Next review date: July 2025