



Water Safety Policy

Blackburn North Neighbourhood House - Inc A0009540J

Policy:

This policy will outline the procedures that apply to managing water safety, including safety during any water-based activities at Blackburn North Neighbourhood House (BNNH).

Principles:

Blackburn North Neighbourhood House is committed to:

- Providing opportunities for children to explore their natural environment, including through water play
- Ensuring that children are protected from the risks associated with drowning or non fatal drowning experiences
- Ensuring that curriculum planning incorporates water safety awareness
- Providing information to educators, staff, parents/guardians, volunteers and others at the service about water safety

Scope:

This policy applies to all staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the program and activities of BNNH.

Procedure:

In providing children with access to water play and activities involving water, including bathing, washing, watering the garden or cleaning up, the Educator will:

- Actively supervise children whenever water is in their environment.
- Safely cover, empty and/or make inaccessible to children all water containers such as basins, sinks, buckets and water troughs immediately after use and ensure they are not accessible to children while in use, or children are actively supervised by the Educator maintaining constant visual contact and always being within an arm's reach of the child/ren.
- Ensure that empty containers accessible to children do not collect rainwater.
- Educate families and children about how to be safe around water. For example learn to swim programs via Water Safety Victoria and water safety messages such as emptying buckets and paddling pools.

BNNH recognizes that children will benefit from playing with water and will provide opportunities for children to engage in safe water play (for example water in water tray activities) and water use (for example watering the garden, washing equipment).

Educators will:

- Undertake an assessment of potential risks associated with the proposed water play activities, including consideration of the age, ability and experiences of the group of children participating
- Permit water play when potential hazards have been identified, appropriate controls have been implemented, and water play activities are deemed to be safe
- Ensure water play is located in a shaded play area
- Use low allergy detergents
- Ensure effective hygiene practices are implemented, such as hand washing after water play and before eating
- Use water play to teach children about safety around water as well as respect for others. For example, children can be reminded not to splash others if they don't like it, to avoid eyes when splashing and to walk carefully on wet, slippery surfaces
- Consider water sustainability in planning and implementing water based activities.
- Use water safe play equipment that is compliant with Australian Safety Standards.

Related Policies

BNNH Policies

Relevant Legislation/Guidelines

- Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic) (Part 2: Principles for Children)
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 167
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 101(2), 168(2) (a)(iii)

Sources and further reading:

- Royal Life Saving Society – Australia: www.royallifesaving.com.au
- Water Safety Victoria – Water Safety Guide: Play it Safe by the Water: www.watersafety.vic.gov.au
- Kidsafe – Water Safety Fact Sheet: www.kidsafevic.com.au/water-safety

Adopted by the Committee of Governance

Signature:	
Name:	Elissa Nguyen
Position:	Chair
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