



## Water Safety Policy

At Port Lincoln Children's Centre we believe water play assists children to learn and explore new skills and promotes sensory development as well as scientific and mathematical concepts. It offers opportunity for social interactions as well learning about responsible water use and conservation.

The safety and supervision of children is of the highest priority, this relates to water play, excursions close to water, hot water, drinking water and the hygiene practices with water in our Centre. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

We also understand water has the capacity to be a heavy material and as such requires staff to follow appropriate WH&S guidelines relating to manual handling and safely moving containers of water.

To prevent accidents and illnesses relating to water, the Centre and staff will;

- Closely supervise water play at all times. Children will not be left unattended while playing with water.
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water.
- Ensure water troughs and containers for play are filled to a safe level. Do not leave buckets, water play troughs or any other water hazard unsupervised. Empty containers immediately after use.
- Store equipment to prevent the collection of water. Check garden after rain or watering and empty water that has collected in containers.
- Discourage children from drinking water during water play activities. Water from the rain water tanks in the garden and bike track is not for drinking.
- Ensure children will have access to clean drinking water all the time. Water containers must always be securely sealed. This water is to be supervised to ensure it is safe and hygienic for consuming.
- Ensure buckets of water for cleaning throughout the day are to be filled immediately before use, supervised by an adult while in use and emptied immediately after use.
- Ensure no hot drinks are consumed in areas accessible to children.
- Ensure all hot water accessible to children will be professionally maintained at 43.5°C. Thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber.
- Follow appropriate WHS guidelines relating to manual handling when moving or securing containers of water.
- Carry out a risk assessment prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused on water safety when an excursion is close to a body of water.
- Ensure when children are present there must be at least one staff member with a current approved first aid qualifications on the premises.

Links to National Law / Regulations

Section 165 , 167

Regulations: 100, 101, 168(2)(a)

NQS.

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety.,  
Standard 2.3

Sources:

Kidsafe SA [www.kidsafesa.com.au/](http://www.kidsafesa.com.au/)  
water-safety

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