

## SECTION 3 HEALTH & SAFETY POLICIES

### 5.11 Water Play Policy

**Aim:**

1. To ensure safe and hygienic practices when water is present as part of the children's program.
2. To value water play as a learning activity, whilst ensuring safety, hygiene, and environmental considerations at all times.
3. To use water safely in all areas of the centre.

**Process:**

- Educators program learning experiences that include the use of water play receptacles (i.e. – clams, trays, canals, ponds)
- Children must be under the direct supervision of staff when participating in water play. A staff member must always be immediately adjacent to the water.
- The Centre has fitted safety taps to prevent the misuse of water.
- Staff must empty all paddling pools, water troughs and other water receptacles after use and store in such a manner that they cannot collect water while not in use.
- Staff will advise parents of children's participation in water activities via group's program that is on display in the child's room or by excursion / regular outing permission form.
- Children will be provided with clean drinking water at all times.
- Buckets used for general cleaning in the Centre will be emptied immediately after use. No buckets will be left in play areas or accessible to children.
- The Centre will professionally maintain all hot water accessible to children at 43.5 degrees.
- The Director / Assistant Director is responsible for arranging the thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber.
- Staff will use their breaks to consume hot drinks away from the children
- A risk assessment will be completed before each excursion / regular outing. Risk assessments will include strategies on how to manage children and water.
- The children's play areas will be monitored regularly throughout the day, to ensure that large pools of water are adequately supervised.
- If rain occurs during the day, outdoor play areas will be checked for safety prior to the children entering the outdoor environment.