



O'Halloran Hill Kindergarten Water Safety Policy

At O'Halloran Hill Kindergarten, we believe children need opportunities to develop their understanding of the natural environment. Experiences with water encourage active exploration and discovery. Knowledge of potential hazards associated with water will assist educators to provide a safe, stimulating environment for preschool children.

Water Safety Guidelines:

- A Water Safety Risk Benefit Assessment is to be reviewed every 12 months.
 - Children must be adequately supervised at all times when having access to any water hazards, such as the water trough. Active supervision - children must be actively supervised at all times when there is a risk of access to any water hazard. Active supervision includes:
 - direct and constant monitoring of children - within arm's length (within 1 to 2 metres)
 - careful and intentional positioning
 - scanning and moving around the environment
 - listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
 - observing play and anticipating behaviour
- Where a water vessel is used for water play by children, the vessel is to be emptied immediately after use and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use.
- All aspects of the environment to be designed to ensure adequate drainage of water and to avoid pooling.
- Children do not have access to the kitchen without a staff member present.
- When children are taken on an excursion to swim or where there is a significant water hazard, educators are to conduct a risk assessment in accordance with DfE Excursion Policy.
- Children's water bottles are re-filled upon request. On warm days all bottles are kept inside the building.
- Water flushing program is completed every 12 months in Week 0 Term 1.

Staff Responsibilities:

At O'Halloran Hill Kindergarten, we are responsible for managing water hazards by:

- Ensuring wading/paddling pools or water play troughs are emptied after each use and stored to prevent the collection of water.
- Ensuring water features that are not able to be adequately supervised at all times and/or pose an unacceptable risk to children are guarded or effective barriers are in place
- When on excursions near water ensuring that the adult to child ratio does not exceed 1:4 and that a risk assessment is completed

In the event of an incident, injury, or 'near-miss', please refer to our policies for reporting and/or administering First Aid.