



Le Fevre Kindergarten Policies and Procedures

Water Safety

Policy Statement

At Le Fevre Kindergarten we believe that water play is soothing and stimulating, and can provide opportunities for experimentation and exploration in which children play and learn alone or alongside others. Water play helps children to learn and explore new skills and promotes sensory development as well as scientific and mathematical concepts, which include volume and space.

AIM: The Preschool will prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to water hazards and to comply with National Quality Standards

The safety and supervision of children is paramount when in or around water. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the Centre environment. Water use within the Centre will be supervised to ensure the safety of children, staff and families is a priority .

RATIONALE: Drowning is the leading cause of death for children aged 1-4 years in Australia. Whilst most drownings occur in backyard swimming pools, it is important to be aware that children can drown in as little as 5cm of water. Other water hazards in relation to child injuries and illnesses are: toilets, wading pools, spas, bathtubs, fish ponds, fountains, dams, creeks, lakes and beaches

IMPLEMENTATION: To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to water hazards and to comply with standards, the following procedures will be followed at Le Fevre Kindergarten.

- Waterplay will be offered in a variety of way, ie in a purpose built water trough or similar container, in the sandpit, in the rock area and in the boat course.
- Close supervision of children near water at all times,
- Never leave children alone near any water,
- Close supervision if children are using any type of equipment containing water that they could hop into
- Water play will only be offered during the warmer months. Staff will change children into dry clothes when required. Parents/guardians will be informed when the rock area will be used with water so spare clothes can be provided from home.
- Water provided for water play in an appropriate receptacle, ie a water trough or bowl, will be on a stand or on a table. The boat course will be placed on the grassed area.
- Staff will ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level
- Water troughs or other large containers will be emptied after use, and stored to prevent the collection of water, eg upturned.

- If a water trough is left unemptied, it must be covered with a secure lid
- Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities. If the water becomes contaminated from children drinking or spitting in the water, the water will be tipped out and the trough disinfected before refilling.
- Children and staff may work together to empty the water trough using watering cans and buckets.
- Staff will adhere to Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare guidelines when tipping out the water troughs. I.e: two staff members may need to empty the trough
- Check playground after rain or watering and empty water that has collected in holes or containers
- Planned water experiences will be displayed in the weekly program or on the daily noticeboard.
- Parents/guardians must notify staff if they **do not** want their child to be involved in water play activities.
- Hand and/or feet washing to remove sand done in a bucket/water container, will be supervised closely and receptacle emptied upon completion of use.
- Grey water systems or water tanks will be labelled with “**Do not drink**” signage and the children will be supervised in this area to make sure they are not accessing this water for drinking.
- The children will be provided with clean drinking water at all times. This water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming
- 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
- Staff and visitors will consume hot drinks away from the children.

.At all times, the staff will be aware of the children’s safety and health when playing with water.

Evaluation

The Policy is viewed to be working effectively when:

- Children are being kept safe around water.
- Children are engaging in educational, fun waterplay activities
- Supervision and access to water within the Centre is managed effectively by staff to ensure children remain safe and healthy

Policy Implementation – January 2012

Policy review –

Source:

KidSafe, <http://www.kidsafesa.com.au/>, 2010, Retrieved January 2012

References:

Kalaya Childrens Centre, SA, 2011

Community Child Care Co-operative (NSW).

Cronulla Preschool 2012