

Background

Drowning remains a leading cause of child fatalities in Australia, with non-fatal incidents potentially causing long-term harm. Common drowning hazards include water troughs, nappy buckets, sinks and water features. Effective supervision is crucial, as children can drown in very shallow water. All water-based activities must be closely supervised by teachers and educators.

Responsibilities

Centre Directors/Responsible Person In-Charge will:

- Document and annually review a risk assessment for water-based activities.
- Include this procedure and risk assessment in induction materials for all staff, students, and volunteers.
- Incorporate water play activities in centre *Supervision Plan*.
- Ensure hot water accessible to children does not exceed 43.5°C.

Teacher and educators will:

- Integrate water safety into the curriculum.
- Supervise children closely during water play.
- Avoid swimming activities, including on excursions.
- Empty water containers and troughs immediately after use.
- Empty cleaning buckets immediately after use. Never leave full buckets unattended for any length of time.
- Store nappy buckets out of reach of children.
- Clean and empty drink water containers daily and ensure they have secure lids.
- Keep hot drinks away from children.

Bathing/showering a child

Teacher and educators will:

- Respect child's dignity and privacy.
- Collect bathing/showering materials before starting.
- Run cold water first. When bathing, fill to child's belly-button height.
- Check the water temperature (37-38°C) with a thermometer or your wrist/elbow before placing the child in the bath/shower.
- Never leave a child unattended.
- Empty the bath immediately after use.
- Inform parents/guardians if their child has been bathed/showered.