**Water Safety Policy**

**(HS9)**

**Policy Statement**

At Little.ly Early Learning Centre the safety and supervision of children is paramount when in or around water. This relates to water play, excursions near water, and hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the Service environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences

**Purpose**

To ensure the safety and supervision of children in and around water. This includes water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the Service environment

**Scope**

This policy applies to children, families, community, staff, management and visitors of the Service.

**Procedure**

Little.ly has a responsibility to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of each child at all times. Drowning is the leading cause of death for children aged 1-4 years in Australia. While most drowning occurs in backyard swimming pools, it is important to be aware that children can drown in as little as 6cm of water

**Management will:**

* Provide direction and education to Educators, staff and families on the importance of children’s safety in and around water.
* Ensure health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and water play.
* Conduct a risk assessment in accordance with the regulations prior to taking children on an
* Excursion which contains or may contain water.
* Ensure at least one Educator who holds a current approved first aid qualification is in attendance at all times
* Ensure water hazards are supervised at all times.

**Educators/Staff will:**

* Supervise children closely near water at all times, never leaving children alone near any water.
* Complete a daily safety inspection of premises to ensure that all hazards are known and minimised. When a hazard or potential hazard is detected, Educators will complete a risk assessment to address any concerns.
* Utilise water activities in appropriate weather.
* Allow children the opportunity to experiment with water, sand and mixing materials as well as a place for floating objects to be used with other water play equipment.
* Monitor taps and turn off securely when not in use.
* Safely cover or make inaccessible to children all water containers, e.g. nappy buckets
* Empty wading pools immediately after every use, store carefully to prevent the collection of water, e.g. upright. Also be vigilant checking gardens after rain or watering and empty any water that has collected in holes or container or tyres
* Encourage children to use water effectively and along with staff learn new ways to save and reuse water.
* Children have safe independent access to clean fresh drinking water at all times.
* Ensure water troughs are not used without a stand, keeping them off the ground with sand on the bottom of the trough and that children remain standing on the ground whilst using water troughs.

**Daily Service Operations**

* Water tanks will be labelled with “Do not drink” signage and children will be supervised to ensure
* Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at a temperature of no more than 43.5°
* Water for pets at the Service will be changed daily and will only be accessible to children when
* Educators and staff are present.
* Parents will be notified as soon as practicable, but within 24 hours, if their child is involved in any incident/accident at the Service or while under Service care.

**National Quality Standards (NQS)**

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| **Quality Area 2** |
| 2.1.2 | Health practices and procedures | Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented. |
| 2.2 | Safety | Each child is protected |
| 2.2.1 | Supervision | At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard |
| 2.2.2 | Incident and emergency management | Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented. |

**Education and Care Services National Regulations**

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| 101 | Conduct of risk assessment for excursions |
| 115 | Premises designed to facilitate supervision |
| 122 | Educators must be working directly with children to be included in ratios |
| 168 | Education and Care Service must have policies and procedures |

**Related Documents and Links**

* Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority (2014).
* Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2015.
* ECA Code of Ethics.
* Department of Health
* Guide to the National Quality Standard.
* National Health and Medical Research Council – [nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/)
* Revised National Quality Standard
* Kidsafe NSW – http://www.kidsafensw.org/water-safety/
* Kidsafe NSW – http://www.kidsafensw.org/imagesDB/wysiwyg/SwimmingPoolSafetyKL2009\_2.pdf
* Kids Alive – https://kidsalive.com.au/early-childhood-program/
* Kids Health – http://kidshealth.org/ parent/firstaid\_safe/ outdoor/water\_safety.html

**Policy Review**

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| **Policy Reviewed** | **Modifications** | **Next Review Date** |
| Version 1: Implemented February 2019 |  | February 2020 |
| Version 2: February 2020 | Addition of water tank safety practices, as it’s a new purchase. | February 2021 |