Water Safety Policy

Purpose

• To ensure any body of water is adequately supervised
• To ensure that all Educators are aware of the risks involved with water
• To ensure that all Educators actively work to reduce those risks

Guidelines

• Any body of water deep enough to cover both the child’s nose and mouth will be deemed a water hazard
• Supervision of children around water will be tailored to suit the individual situation, and must take into account:
  o Number, age, and ability of children
  o Number and location of Educators
  o Each child’s current activity
  o Area of play, with particular focus on accessibility and visibility of the area
  o Risks in the environment
  o Type of experience provided for children
  o Educators knowledge of each child, and the group of children as a whole
  o Educators’ experience and skill level.

• Ensure children are discouraged from drinking the water used for water based experiences
• Provide clean drinking water at all time from a securely sealed water container (or drink taps), container is to be cleaned at the end of every session

Procedures

• Water experiences will be discussed amongst Educators prior to the session to ensure all Educators working are aware of the risks
• Water experiences will be closely supervised by at least one Educator at all times. Appropriate supervision (decided based on factors mentioned in Guidelines) will be decided and implemented at the start of the session
• Water to be used in experiences will be fresh at the start of the session
• Water used in experiences will be emptied at the end of each session onto the garden to encourage water conservation
• Educators will discuss water safety as part of all water experiences
• Any bucket of water used for cleaning or other purposes must be supervised, and emptied after use
• Children will be heavily discouraged from touching or opening the fish tank
• Children will be supervised with feeding the fish
• Children will be supervised when changing the water in the fish tank
• Educators will use travel mugs when consuming hot beverages within the service
• Educators will supervise children at all times when children are in the kitchen
• Risk assessments will be carried out for all excursions, with a focus on water safety when the excursion will take place near a body of water.