

WATER SAFETY POLICY

This policy is informed by:

- **CMS Student Welfare Policy 2015**
- CMS Excursion Policy 2016
- CMS Duty of Care Policy 2015
- The CMS Water Safety Policy is linked to the *National Quality Standards (2.1.1; 2.3.2; 7.3.5) National Law and National Regulations*
- National Health and Medical Research Council
www.nhmrc.gov.au
- Pool and Water Safety
www.kidsafe.com.au

Statement:

Canberra Montessori School (CMS) recognises the sensory benefits gained by children engaged in safe water play activities. CMS further recognises water play is essential in developing literacy and numeracy skills as well as scientific discovery abilities and environmental awareness in children while assisting them with the development of their fine motor skills and concentration.

Similarly, CMS recognises and understands a child can drown in water at a depth of only 5 centimetres. As such, CMS takes its responsibility to provide a safe, resource-rich learning environment very seriously.

This policy applies to the educators, parents/guardians, support staff and any other person involved with CMS.

Rationale:

Children's safety and wellbeing will be protected in and around water through supervision and preventative measures and be promoted through the availability of clean, hygienic water for work, play and for drinking.

Strategies:

The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the CMS environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

CMS complies with the National Quality Standards which reflect additional health and safety requirements for children's services. Further, CMS recognises water has the capacity to be a heavy material and as such, require educators to follow appropriate occupational health and safety guidelines relating to back care and safety of equipment when moving or securing vessels containing water.

Practices and Procedures:

CMS will ensure:

- this policy and procedures are developed, maintained and implemented at all times;
- guidance and education is provided to educators and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water;
- work, health and safety practices incorporate appropriate approaches to safe storage of water play equipment;
- hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature set by the appointed plumber.
- water for pets at CMS must be changed regularly and only be accessible to children when adults are present;
- a risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Attention will be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water;
- all children that are taken on an excursion near any body of water, the minimum adult-to-child ratio of persons participating in the excursion is:
 - a) 1 adult per 11 students for Cycle 1 plus one extra adult
 - b) 1 adult per class group for Cycle 2 and 3 plus one extra adult
- children are not taken on an excursion to a beach, river, lake or other place where there is a significant water hazard.

Educators will ensure:

- activities will be supervised at all times and containers or troughs will be emptied onto garden areas after use;
- assistance is sought from families in providing a spare set of clothing for their child in the event the child becomes uncomfortably wet when engaged in water activity;
- there will be minimal water waste and reinforce the water conservation message by ensuring that only such water as is required to undertake water activity is placed within the vessel;
- the educational programs reflect the appropriate environmental water-wise message when engaged in water activity;
- buckets used for cleaning are emptied immediately after use;
- all water-carrying vessels that can reasonably present a drowning hazard for children are stored in a manner to prevent the inadvertent collection of water through natural causes such as rain;
- after rain and watering, the outdoor areas are checked to empty any water that has collected in holes and outdoor equipment;
- children thoroughly wash and dry their hands in accordance with CMS procedures after each water play activity to reduce the risk of cross infection;
- clean drinking water is provided at all times and this water will be supervised to ensure it is safe and hygienic for consuming.

Approved by:	Date:	Next Review Date:
Principal	1/2/2023	1/2/2025