



MSS & WAABINY OSHC OUTDOOR & WATER PLAY POLICY



PURPOSE

Educators will consult with families in regards to their child's requirement for outdoor play and any associated water play activities to ensure each child's individual needs are met. Outdoor play and any associated water play activities will take into account current health and safety requirements for the planning of these activities.

SCOPE

All people involved in ensuring children's health and safety during outdoor and/or water play activities for children enrolled at Montessori Stepping Stones (MSS) – as well as children, families, educators and employees who assist in the continuous improvement and implementation of relating quality practices.

DESCRIPTION/GENERAL

Young children come to early childhood education and care settings as active, sometimes already “experienced learners” with a natural curiosity. They are unique individuals eager to make sense of their world, to develop relationships and to extend their skills.

MSS understands it has a duty of care to ensure that children are provided with an environment that provides for children's needs for outdoor and/or water play, which forms part of children's health and wellbeing and fundamental to their development. Children need to be supported to feel a sense of belonging and comfort within outdoor the education and care environment. Experiences that promote awareness of outdoor care and safety for themselves and others will assist children to become competent, independent, and develop valuable life skills.

The outdoor environment provides an ideal setting to allow children to develop this curiosity and be active in their learning and develop a sense of physical, mental and emotional well-being, through participation in a range of experiences and spontaneous social interactions.

LEGISLATION AND GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS

Laws relating to protection of privacy and confidentiality; duty of confidentiality arising from contract with parent; to whom and when information must be disclosed;

- Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act
- Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996
- Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012;
- Education and Care Services National Regulations

CHILDREN'S NEEDS

A safe and caring environment in which their needs for outdoor and/or water play are met. The ability to choose appropriate activities and experiences.

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FAMILIES' NEEDS

Their child's health, wellbeing, comfort and safety is assured and cultural needs recognised and addressed.

EDUCATOR AND EMPLOYEE NEEDS

Children are to be supervised appropriately for play and activities. Families understand children's outdoor and/or water play needs and support policy implementation.

MANAGEMENT NEEDS

Ensure educators follow best practice and safety precautions for children during outdoor and/or water play.

At MSS we aim to provide a safe, stimulating outdoor - and where appropriate, water play - environment where space is used effectively to enable children to explore a broad and balanced program/curriculum using a range of interesting resources suitable to their individual needs and stage of development.

PLANNING – GENERAL

Outdoor and /or water play activities are both planned as well as spontaneous for all age groups. It links curricular areas with the environment should be treated as an extension of the indoor environment.

PLANNING RESOURCES – WATER PLAY/ACTIVITIES

A critical part of the planning is the duty of care of each educator/employee and in this respect the adult-to-child ratio and in particular where activities involve water.

A variety of resources are available for educators and children to select from to provide a range of learning experiences across the curriculum. These include resources for physical play e.g.: balance beam, balls etc and a further selection of resources which promote learning in other curricular areas, e.g. knowledge and understanding of the plants and insects, weather, gardening, expressive and aesthetic development and literacy; both educators and children have access to these resources to choose as they wish.

Children are encouraged to be independent in selection and return of resources and educators will provide clear rules so that children know what they can do.

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