

Introduction

Effective supervision is the key to maintaining children's safety in and around water.

General responsibilities

- Closely supervise children when engaging in water play activities. Maintain constant visual contact within arm's reach when children are in or near water.
- Ensure children do not participate in swimming activities.
- Undertake a *Form Risk assessment* prior to children spending time in areas where water may lay or flow.
- Ensure water containers and troughs are emptied onto gardens after use.
- Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. Do not leave full buckets in play areas unsupervised.
- Ensure nappy buckets have a secure lid and are stored in areas that are inaccessible to children.
- Ensure drink water containers are securely sealed, emptied and cleaned daily.
- Keep aquariums and fishbowls out of reach of young children.
- Ensure hot water accessible to children is maintained no higher than 43.5°.
- Consume hot drinks away from children, in areas that are not used by children.

Educator responsibilities when bathing a child

- Closely supervise at all times during bathing. Never leave any child unattended for any length of time. If required to leave the bathroom, the child must be taken out of the bath and the water emptied or bathroom door locked.
- Before commencing the bath, collect bathing materials (e.g. towels, soap, washers and clean clothes).
- Run cold water first and turn off last. Run only enough water for washing and play, e.g. belly-button height for a child that can sit.
- Check the water temperature is between 37° C and 38° C before placing child in the bath. Use a water thermometer, or your wrist or elbow.
- Empty water as soon as bath time is over.
- Inform parent / guardian if their child has been bathed.

Acknowledgments & references

Raising Children Network Australia, Bath Safety
http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/bath_safety.html