

Personal Drink Bottles in the Education and Care setting

Rationale and Policy Considerations

Glenelg Community Child Care Centre (the service) provides information and guidelines to families and educators/staff in relation to the supply and use of children's drink bottles whilst they are at the service. To build awareness of the importance of water to maintain hydration throughout the day; its value as a finite resource; value in everyday life and environment and responsible use. It also provides support to develop independence and agency for their own health and wellbeing.

Children will provide their own named, empty water bottle each day they attend the service. The bottle will be in easy access for them throughout the day. For younger children, their drink bottle will be regularly offered throughout the day.

Philosophy

We believe in a documented approach to provision of a healthy environment; approach to educator/staff professionalism and responsible conduct.

Children's needs

Children are treated as individuals in relation to their personality and identity, access to drinks within the context of their development and skill level. Children have agency to accommodate their hydration requirements throughout the day.

Families' needs

Opportunity for families to assist their children to choose a drink bottle that provides immediate recognition for them, and ownership of their belongings.

Educator/staff needs

Opportunity to support the children's development in recognising their belongings (water bottle) and agency to access water for themselves in accordance with their development.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.1	Health	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.1.3	Healthy Lifestyles	Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
78	Food and beverages
168	Education and care services must have policies and procedures

Practice

- Bring daily in empty, clean, age-appropriate drink bottle
- Bottles to be clearly labelled with child's name
- In Babies, Toddlers and Kindy rooms, baskets will be provided for the children's bottles to be placed each morning on arrival
- **Educators will fill bottles with fresh water allowing staff to monitor cleanliness of drink bottles**
- Bottles will be monitored and refilled as required during the day



- **Children will be supervised when drinking from their bottles to prevent sharing and spread of germs as we do now with centre cups**
- Kindy children will be encouraged to refill their own bottles as part of developing their self-help skills
- When children are engaged in outdoor play baskets will be taken outside and accessible to children
- Families to take bottles home each day when collecting children

Date: January 2022

Next review date: January 2024

Approved by Management on: Feb 2022