

WATER SAFETY/PLAY MONTH

Information Sheet



Type of event:	Educational Curriculum Event
Date:	January
Duration:	Full month

What is the special event?	For the month of January Keiki educators will focus on supporting the children and their families in learning about water safety, while having fun and keeping cool with some water play. While incorporating intentional teaching for children, we will share resources and information with families and the community. It is also the best time to review the Water Safety Policy.
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Why is it important to Keiki Early Learning?	Sometimes, it is easy to pigeonhole water safety as learning how to swim, and although knowing how to swim is also very important it is not the only aim of learning or teaching water safety. In the Keiki Water Safety Policy (click here to view and read) water hazards are defined as anything that can hold 5cm water and fit a child's nose and mouth. A water hazard may include swimming pools, portable pools and spas, fishponds and fish tanks, sinks and basins, smaller bodies of water such as baths, buckets and mop buckets, water features such as wishing wells, containers for feeding animals, water troughs, containers for paddling, dams, creeks, rivers or pooling water, the beach, and tarps or other play equipment that allows water to gather. Although drowning rates have reduced over the last 20 years, drowning remains the leading cause of preventable death in children under five in Australia. Children between the ages of 1 to 2 are at the greatest risk of drowning, accounting for 47% of all drowning deaths of 0-4 year olds in WA. Royal Life Saving Western Australia's Keep Watch program, "Kids can't help themselves around water. You need to", emphasises the following four key drowning prevention actions: • Supervise: Always keep watch of your child around water • Restrict: Restrict your child's access to water at all times • Teach: Teach your child water safety skills • Respond: Learn CPR and call Triple Zero (000) in an emergency. We also know that water play is a loved and valuable experience for children's development and encourage water play in a safe way. Most children love to play in water, especially when it is warm outside.
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What are our expectations?	Educators and Leadership must do the following over the month: • Read and review the Water Safety Policy • Review their outdoor risk assessment (and use the information to review/update your supervision maps) and conduct a risk assessment for the bathroom and one for cleaning procedures • Critically reflect and plan intentional teaching moments throughout the month focusing on water safety for the children in your care. The Keiki Hub will do the following: • Share social media posts with information about water safety • Add information to the Newsletter about water safety • Design any posters if required
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	Support in the writing of Xplor posts about the focus of the month, if needed.
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Activity Ideas	Here are some ideas to get you started. You may wish to use some of these or create your own. Take input from educators, children and families and choose activities that have meaning for your service. - Have a summer/water themed day at the service - Enjoy water play experiences together and make sure they see you empty it out and talk about why you are emptying the water 'to keep them safe' - Add sand to water play and talk about the beach and beach safety - Add herbs and flowers to stimulate the senses - Add ice and talk about the way it makes our hands feel - Have different materials available, cups, cutlery, bowls, colanders and jugs, buckets, funnels, bottles and even eye droppers, tubes, squeeze bottles and paint brushes - Design and create paper boats together - Invite a local surf lifesaving group in for an incursion Inspiration from Keiki services in previous years (scan the QR code or click the link)  Keiki Hamersley – Birak Inspired Potion Making  Keiki Mindarie Primary – Surf Lifesaving Visit  Keiki Glendale – Icy Water Play
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LINKING THIS EVENT TO RESOURCES AND DATA

To support educators, educational leaders and early childhood teachers we link each event with important and valuable resources that support and inform our decision making at Keiki.

How can we link this event to our Philosophy?	Core Value: Our Community We respect and welcome all contributions from children, families and community members to our shared space of play and learning. By creating an inclusive environment our curriculum is enriched and each child's sense of belonging and development is enhanced, helping to create a strong foundation for lifelong learning. Core Value: The Whole Child We believe every child is born full of potential with an innate desire to learn and explore their world. Core Value: Earth to Sky Following in the steps of the Whudjuk Noongar people, we empower children to develop a true appreciation and love of the natural environment and its relationship to their world.
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How does this event link to the AEDC Data?	This Data plays a major part in why we do a lot of things at Keiki. Our main focus for this event is the safety aspects of water play, however there are so many wonderful benefits of playing with water for children’s development. <i>Physical Health and Wellbeing</i> <table><tr><th>Area</th><th>At Risk</th><th>Vulnerable</th></tr><tr><td>Stirling</td><td>8.9%</td><td>8.4%</td></tr><tr><td>Joondalup</td><td>8.1%</td><td>5.4%</td></tr><tr><td>Wanneroo</td><td>11.9%</td><td>8.2%</td></tr></table> Water play supports the development of hand-eye coordination and motor skills as they pour, squeeze, stir and sometimes even paint with water. Their senses can participate in the experiences by adding different textures or items that add scent etc. Children often lose themselves in water play and spend long periods of time exploring. This encourages the development of focus and concentration, a valuable skill for their schooling journey. <i>Social Competence</i> <table><tr><th>Area</th><th>At Risk</th><th>Vulnerable</th></tr><tr><td>Stirling</td><td>12.8%</td><td>6%</td></tr><tr><td>Joondalup</td><td>9.6%</td><td>4.4%</td></tr><tr><td>Wanneroo</td><td>13.5%</td><td>7.5%</td></tr></table> The children will explore the water together, encouraging them to discuss and communicate with each other. Water play encourages turn taking and group investigation. <i>Emotional Maturity</i> <table><tr><th>Area</th><th>At Risk</th><th>Vulnerable</th></tr><tr><td>Stirling</td><td>13.3%</td><td>6.7%</td></tr><tr><td>Joondalup</td><td>10.7%</td><td>4.6%</td></tr><tr><td>Wanneroo</td><td>14.1%</td><td>7.2%</td></tr></table> Water play can provide sensory benefits which can support children to calm, unwind and relax. Water play can also promote role play, which encourages critical social skills like cooperation and sharing. They can learn to work with one or several children, to take turns and share the space and accessories with their friends. <i>Language and Cognitive Skills</i> <table><tr><th>Area</th><th>At Risk</th><th>Vulnerable</th></tr><tr><td>Stirling</td><td>9.3%</td><td>5.6%</td></tr><tr><td>Joondalup</td><td>6.9%</td><td>3.1%</td></tr><tr><td>Wanneroo</td><td>11.8%</td><td>6.6%</td></tr></table> Children will ask questions and discuss together if you ask them questions or provide open ended materials to use within the water. Children may count how many buckets they have, use brushes to paint and sometimes even make plans together to investigate more. <i>Communication and General Knowledge</i> <table><tr><th>Area</th><th>At Risk</th><th>Vulnerable</th></tr><tr><td>Stirling</td><td>11.4%</td><td>6.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Joondalup</td><td>9.6%</td><td>3.5%</td></tr><tr><td>Wanneroo</td><td>13.8%</td><td>7.9%</td></tr></table> Water is the perfect medium for demonstrating mathematical and scientific concepts such as volume and weight. ‘How much water can we fit in this bucket?’ ‘What will happen if we drop this heavy object into the water?’ As they manipulate the water play materials children build upon their scientific enquiry and problem-solving skills.	Area	At Risk	Vulnerable	Stirling	8.9%	8.4%	Joondalup	8.1%	5.4%	Wanneroo	11.9%	8.2%	Area	At Risk	Vulnerable	Stirling	12.8%	6%	Joondalup	9.6%	4.4%	Wanneroo	13.5%	7.5%	Area	At Risk	Vulnerable	Stirling	13.3%	6.7%	Joondalup	10.7%	4.6%	Wanneroo	14.1%	7.2%	Area	At Risk	Vulnerable	Stirling	9.3%	5.6%	Joondalup	6.9%	3.1%	Wanneroo	11.8%	6.6%	Area	At Risk	Vulnerable	Stirling	11.4%	6.8%	Joondalup	9.6%	3.5%	Wanneroo	13.8%	7.9%
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How does this link to the ECA Code of Ethics?	In relation to children, I will: • Act in the best interests of all children • Create and maintain safe, healthy, inclusive environments that support children’s agency and enhance their learning • Provide a meaningful curriculum to enrich children’s learning, balancing child and educator-initiated experiences • Understand and be able to explain to others how play and leisure enhance children’s learning, development and wellbeing • Ensure childhood is a time for being in the here and now and not solely about preparation for the future																																																												

Event Fact Sheet

	- Value the relationship between children and their families and enhance these relationships through my practice In relation to families, I will: - Support families as children's first and most important teacher and respect their right to make decisions about their children - Develop respectful relationships based on open communication with the aim of encouraging families' engagement and to build a strong sense of belonging In relation to the community and society, I will: - Collaborate with people, services and agencies to develop shared understandings and actions that support children and families - Use research and practice-based evidence to advocate for a society where all children have access to quality education and care - Advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies that promote the rights and best interests of children and families.
How does this event link to the UN Rights of the Child?	Articles: 3. All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child 6. Children have the right to live a full life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily. 13. Children have the right to get and share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others. 24. Children have the right to good quality health care, clean water, nutritious foods and a clean environment so that they stay healthy. Richer countries should help poorer countries achieve this. 31. children have the right to relax, play and to join in a wide range of leisure activities. Please talk to the children about the Rights of the Child. Do you have it displayed in your service for the children?
How can we link this event to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture?	Australia's First Nations peoples are highly diverse, but a spiritual and cultural connection to water is common to all language groups. Water is sacred to Aboriginal peoples, connecting and sustaining all living things. The Yarragadee is an underground aquifer beneath the Perth metropolitan area. Laying in thick layers of sand and porous rock, the youngest water in the aquifer is about 600 years old, the oldest more than 35,000. The <u>Whadjuk Noongar people</u> believe the deepest aquifer is home to the spirit of the <u>Waugal</u>, or rainbow serpent. The Waugal embodies the vital force of running water; its presence connects groundwater to the surface, in chains of wetlands that provide fresh water, food, and attract game. The enduring presence of the Waugal connects the past and present, demanding care and respect from the Noongar custodians.