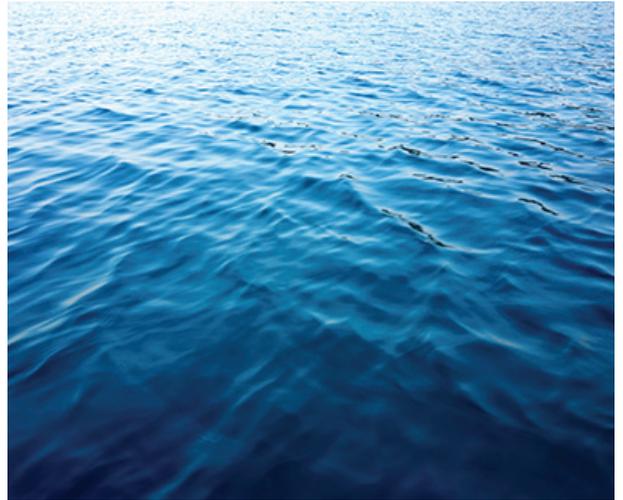


ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – WATER

INFORMATION FOR EDUCATORS

Australia is the driest inhabited country in the world. Our fresh water is our most natural resource, not just for people but also for our environment. Therefore it is critical that young children learn to appreciate and conserve water. Water play has an important role in educating children about the importance of water, its various properties and states, different types of water, where it comes from and where it goes, how it's treated, what it is used for and who uses it.



Water also provides great sensory opportunities for children. Water play provides learning in all developmental areas. There are opportunities to explore maths, science, language, emotions, creativity, and natural systems. Water play is lots of fun, can help to relieve tension or anxiety, and can be done inside or outside.

Children need to experience water often, in a range of activities and experiences in order to appreciate its value and understand all of its uses. In order to conserve water, they must first have opportunities to experience it. If your service is in an area where water is particularly scarce, it might be good to limit the amount of water provided to children for play (e.g. a bucket, a small tub or water container with a tap, and you could also consider a water pump that reticulates the water for reuse).

There are lots of ways to use water in your program; however you might need to be prepared. Give families plenty of notice if this is a new thing for your service, ensuring children and staff have a full change of clothes, or provide plastic smocks or other protective clothing. Have towels on hand and finish up in time for everyone to dry off and get changed.

Definitions:

- Water Conservation – The careful management of water resources.
- Water Cycle – The process by which water circulates between the earth's oceans, atmosphere and land

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – WATER

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

Water play has an important role in educating children about the importance of water, its various properties and states, different types of water, where it comes from and where it goes, how it's treated, what it is used for and who uses it.

Water also provides great sensory opportunities for children. Water play provides learning in all developmental areas. There are opportunities to explore maths, science, language, emotions, creativity, and natural systems. Water play is lots of fun, can help to relieve tension or anxiety, and can be done inside or outside.



Children need to experience water often, in a range of activities and experiences in order to appreciate its value and understand all of its uses. In order to conserve water, they must first have opportunities to experience it.

You can provide lots of opportunities for your child to learn how to conserve water at home:

- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.
- Have a short shower or shallow bath.
- Sweep the driveway or path rather than hose it down.
- Put some water in a large bowl or the sink to rinse vegetables.
- Empty unfinished water bottles onto the garden.
- Mulch garden beds to reduce evaporation.
- Install water saving fixtures and fittings.
- Look for the water saving rating system when you buy new appliances such as dishwashers or washing machines.
- Only run appliances when you have a full load.
- Install a rainwater tank to flush the toilet and water the garden.