

TITLE	BATHING BABIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN
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Related documentation	
Policy/policies:	Water safety Administration of First Aid
Regulation/s/ Standards:	National Regulations 77 and 109 NQS 2.1.1
Other procedures:	Nappy changing
References:	Kidsafe NSW, NSW Hunter Health The National Regulations 2011
Date effective	October 2017
Date for review	October 2019
Purpose	To reduce the risk of bathroom accidents such as scalds and to prevent drowning for babies and young children whilst in care.
Responsibility	Educators, Relief Educators

Key information:

- **Babies and children should always be supervised in bathrooms. Babies or young child should not be left alone or under the supervision of an older child whilst they are in the bathroom.**
- **Bath aids are not considered safety devices.**
- **Children should not have unsupervised access to hot water. It is recommended that hot water systems be regulated to 50 degrees Celsius**

Procedure/s:

Before

- Prepare the baby/ child's clothing, towel, soaps and any other items needed for bathing before running the bath.
- Turn the cold tap ON before the hot tap and turn the hot tap OFF before the cold tap when running the bath.
- Run the water to a minimum depth. Bear in mind that a child can drown in 5cm of water.
- Test the water temperature (preferably with a bath thermometer). Temperature needs to be at least 37 degrees.

During

- Stay with the baby/child.
- If you need to leave the bathroom, take the child with you.

- To reduce the incidence of slipping, discourage children from standing in the bath and from climbing in and out of the bath unassisted.

After

- Empty the tub when you have finished bathing the baby/child to eliminate a water hazard.

First Aid for scalds

- Remove the clothing as quickly as possible to prevent continued burning.
- Run cool tap water over the scald for at least 20 minutes. Try to keep the rest of the child's body warm whilst rinsing the area of the scald.
- Seek medical attention.

DO NOT

Apply ice, iced water, creams or lotions.