

TITLE	BATHING BABIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN PROCEDURE
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Related documentation Policy/policies: Regulation/s/ Standards: Other procedures: References:	Child protection, Interactions with children & Water safety National Regulations 77 and 109 NQS 2.1.1, 2.1.2 Nappy changing Supervision Workplace Health & Safety (Educators Kidsafe NSW https://www.kidsafensw.org/ Kidsafe Australia https://kidsafe.com.au/ The Education and Care Services National Regulations July 2018
Date effective	October 2021
Date for review	October 2023
Purpose	To reduce the risk of bathroom accidents such as scalds and to prevent drowning for babies and young children whilst in care. To ensure bathing is conducted respectfully.
Responsibility	Educators, Relief Educators

Key information:

- Babies and children’s rights should be considered, and their dignity maintained whilst they are being bathed.
- 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 child’s clothing, towel, soaps and any other items needed for bathing.
- 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 around 38 degrees.

During

- Stay with the baby/child at all times.
- 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, band-aid, creams or lotions.