Kimba community Kindergarten Water Safety Policy

Rationale
Children need opportunities to develop their understanding of the natural environment. Experiences with water encourage active exploration and discovery of the environment. Knowledge of potential hazards associated with water will assist educators to provide a safe, stimulating environment for preschool children. Drowning and near drowning is an obvious hazard associated with water (more than 100 children drown in Australia each year). While swimming pools are an obvious hazard, other drowning hazards for young children include nappy storage buckets, animal water containers, ponds and poor drainage which allow water to pool etc.

Curriculum
- Activities will be available for children to learn through experiences with water.
- Exploration and discovery
- Measuring and pouring
- Precipitation and evaporation
- Water safety near pools, dams, the beach
- Regular drinking of water

The Learning Environment
- Children at our preschool will have regular opportunities to access water play.
- Children will be encouraged to drink clean water.

Procedure
- Children will be adequately supervised at all times when having access to any water hazards.
- Where a water vessel is used for water play by children, the vessel will be emptied immediately after use and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use.
- If children are taken on an excursion to swim or where there is a significant water hazard, educators will conduct a risk assessment in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 100 and 101 of the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*.
- Children will have safe independent access to clean and cool drinking water at all times.
- Water containers (eg buckets) will be safely covered or inaccessible to children
- If it is necessary to bath a child, the child will be directly supervised at all times – an educator will remain within arms reach of the child at all times while being bathed and/or water is still in the bath

Date: March 9th 2012