



Policy Statement

Water safety policies and procedures help keep children safe in and around water to support children's learning in a safe environment. Children's safety and wellbeing will be protected in and around water through supervision and education. All water based activities will be adequately supervised and no child will be left unattended with in proximity to water.

Background

The Education and Care Services National Regulations require approved providers to ensure their services have policies and procedures in place for managing water safety which includes safety during any water based activities. A child can drown in as little as a few centimetres of water. Items such as sinks, ponds, pools, water features and water tanks are potential drowning hazards. The most common factor in childhood drownings is lack of supervision. The health, safety, adequate supervision of and wellbeing of children is our number one priority.

NQS

QA2	2.2.1	Supervision - At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
QA3	3.1.1	Fit for purpose - Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child.
	3.1.2	Upkeep - Premises, furniture and equipment are safe, clean and well maintained.
	3.2.1	Inclusive environment - Outdoor and indoor spaces are organised and adapted to support every child's participation and to engage every child in quality experiences in both built and natural environments.
	3.2.2	Resources support play-based learning - Resources, materials and equipment allow for multiple uses, are sufficient in number, and enable every child to engage in play-based learning.
QA6	6..1.1	Engagement with the service - Families are supported from enrolment to be involved in the service and contribute to service decisions.
	6.1.3	Families are supported - Current information is available to families about the service and relevant community services and resources to support parenting and family wellbeing.
QA7	7.1.2	Management systems – Systems are in place to manage risk and enable the effective management and operation of a quality service.



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National Law

Section	165	Offence to inadequately supervise children
	167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards

National Regulations

Regs	25 (1) (c)	Additional information about proposed education and care service premises
	99	Children leaving the education and care service premises
	101	Conduct a risk assessment for excursion
	102C	Conduct of risk assessment of transporting of children by the education and care service
	115	Premises designed to facilitate supervision
	156	Relationships in groups
	168(2)(a)(iii)	Education and care services must have policies and procedures on water safety, including during any water based activity
	170	Policies and procedures to be followed
	171	Policies and procedures to be kept available
	172	Notification of change to policies or procedures

EYLF

LO2	Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation
	Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment

LO4	Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity
	Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, enquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating
	Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another
	Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials

Related Policies

- Excursion Policy
- Governance Policy



- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
- Physical environment (WHS, learning and admin)
- Relationships with Children Policy
- Sandpit Policy
- Staffing Arrangements Policy

Implementation

Water based play is an important part of our children's healthy growth, learning, wellbeing and development. Our educators will ensure that all precautions are employed to safeguard children during these experiences. Clear roles and responsibilities ensure that management, educators and other staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in relation to water safety. We create opportunities for children to learn and develop. This includes incorporating water safety and awareness into the educational program.

Water Safety

The Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor and educators understand the risks that water hazards pose and will undertake measures to ensure the health and safety of all children in the service environment and during excursions.

A water hazard is anything that can hold enough water to cover a child's nose and mouth and includes:

- sinks, basins, fish tanks, fishbowls, baths
- swimming pools, portable pools, spas
- water courses, ponds, sandpits, clam shells
- water troughs, containers and buckets used for play, animal drinking containers
- pooling water.

Educators will:

- complete a risk assessment before allowing children to engage in water based activities at the service or on excursion and ensure all risks are minimised or eliminated where possible.
- ensure no child swims in any water without:
 - written permission from parents.
 - appropriate educator/child ratios in place and adequate supervision.
- closely supervise children at all times near water. This includes:
 - monitoring of children



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- careful and intentional positioning
- scanning and moving around the environment
- listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
- observing and anticipating children's behaviour
- higher adult to child ratios if identified as requirement in risk assessment
- presence of first aid trained staff.
- ensure children with diarrhoea, upset stomachs, open sores or nasal infections do not swim or play in water.
- ensure all children wear appropriate swimmers in a pool, go to the toilet before entering the pool, and follow correct toileting hygiene practices while in the pool.
- remove all children immediately if a child passes a bowel motion in the pool, advise pool managers if at a public pool, disinfect and if practical empty a home pool or trough.

To ensure a safe environment and prevent accidents and illnesses related to water based activities at the service educators will:

- fill wading pools with less than 300 mm of water.
- remove any items or objects that could be used to climb into the fenced area of a pool, trough, or water storage unit such as chairs, bins, bikes, any overhanging trees.
- cover all water containers like ponds, nappy buckets, bathtubs or ensure they are inaccessible to children
- immediately empty all portable water hazards (such as buckets and water troughs) after every use and store in a way that prevents water collecting in them (e.g. upright/inverted).
- check grounds after rain or watering and empty water that has collected in holes or containers.
- ensure all pools and troughs in which children play are hygienically cleaned, disinfected and chlorinated in accordance with the instructions on the container. For wading pools and trough educators will:
 - remove leaves and debris daily
 - hose away surface dirt
 - scrub inside with disinfectant and rinse it away before refilling

Sources

- ACECQA Policy and Procedure Guidelines
- SA Policy and Procedure Guidelines
- Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations
Early Years Learning Framework
National Quality Standard



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- Building Code of Australia
- Royal Life Saving Society Home Pool Safety Checklist
- Royal Life Saving Society Wading Pools Checklist

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually by:

- Management
- Employees
- Families
- Interested Parties

