



2.17 Water Safety Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

The safety and supervision of children is paramount when in or around water. This relates to water play, excursions near water, and hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the service environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

AIM

To ensure the safety and supervision of children in and around water. This includes water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the service environment.

STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

Management/Nominated Supervisor/ Responsible Person will:

- Provide direction and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety and supervision in and around water.
- Ensure health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and water play.
- Ensure premises adjacent to or providing access to, any water hazards that are not able to be adequately supervised at all times (e.g. dams, swimming pool) are to be isolated from children by a child resistant barrier or fence.
- Conduct a risk assessment in accordance with the requirements prior to taking children on an excursion, which contains or may contain water.
- Ensure at least one educator who holds a current approved first aid qualification must be in attendance at all times.
- Display a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) guide near any water.
- Ensure water hazards are supervised at all times.

Educators will:

- Supervise children near water at all times
- Never leave children alone near any water
- Ensure children in a bath are directly supervised at all times
- Ensure fish / frog ponds and water features that are not able to be adequately supervised at all times and/or pose an unacceptable risk to children are guarded or effective barriers are in place.
- Complete a daily safety inspection of premises to ensure that all hazards are known and minimised. When a hazard or potential hazard is detected, educators will complete a risk assessment to address any concerns.
- Utilise water activities in appropriate weather
- Allow the children the opportunity to experiment with water, sand and mixing materials plus a place for boats & floating objects to be used with other water play equipment.
- Monitor the tap and turned off securely when not in use
- Safely cover or make inaccessible to children all water containers, e.g. nappy buckets

- Empty wading pools immediately after every use, store to prevent the collection of water, e.g. upright, also check garden after rain or watering and empty water that has collected in holes or containers.
- Encourage children to use water effectively and along with staff learn new ways to save and re-use water.
- Children have safe independent access to clean and cool drinking water at all times
- Ensure water troughs are not used without a stand, keeping it off the ground with sand on the bottom of the trough
- Ensure children remain standing on the ground whilst using the water trough
- Ensure buckets of water for soaking toys or clothing are inaccessible to children
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied into the garden areas after use.
- Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities.
- Ensure laundry, storerooms and educator areas supervised when children are helping with house duties
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water

Operational Safety

- Water tanks will be labelled with "Do Not Drink" signage and the children will be supervised in this area to make sure they are not accessing this water for drinking.
- Educators will discuss with the children the use of water tank water and how it differs from drinking water.
- Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5° which will be tested annually.
- Water for pets at the service must be changed daily and only be accessible to children when educators are present.

Important: parents will be notified as soon as practicable but within 24 hours if their child is involved in an incident/accident at the service or while under service care. Also, details of the incident/accident will be recorded on an Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record.

Important: if the incident/accident, situation or event presents imminent or severe risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of the child or if an ambulance was called in response to the emergency (not as a precaution) the regulatory authority will be notified within 24 hours.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law NSW

- 101 - Conduct of risk assessment for excursions
- 115 - Premises designed to facilitate supervision
- 122 - Educators must be working directly with children to be included in ratios
- 126 - Centre based services-general educator qualifications
- 168 - Education and care service must have policies and procedures

SOURCE LIST

This section contains websites, industry bodies, or Legislation that have been used to assist in sourcing the information for this policy. It also acts as a guide to sourcing further reading on each relevant policy.

- [Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority](#)
- [Early Childhood Australia - Code of Ethics](#)
- [Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011](#)
- [Guide to the National Quality Standard](#)

- [Revised National Quality Standard](#)
- [Newsletter of the National Childcare Accreditation Council \(NCAC\) - Supervision in Children’s Services, Issue 15 \(2005\)](#)
- [National Health and Medical Research Council](#)
- [NSW Department of Health](#)

RELATED POLICIES

- 2.01 Administration of First Aid Policy
- 2.04 Incident, Illness, Accident and Trauma Policy
- 2.15 Supervision Policy
- 3.01 Animal Policy
- 3.02 Physical Environment Policy

POLICY REVIEW

The review schedule has been developed using a risk assessment methodology with consideration given to sector, industry, and legislative changes.

Date reviewed	Policy changed	Modifications	Next Review Date
May 2018	Yes	Minor changes made to policy - updated to meet the National Law and/or National Regulations in respect of a serious incidents and notification purposes.	May 2019