

Water Safety Policy

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

National Quality Standard (NQS)

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety		
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented.

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

PURPOSE

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.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the service.

IMPLEMENTATION

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.
- Ensure Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) guides are displayed around service.
- Ensure water hazards are always supervised and water is tipped out when finished being used for that activity.
- Ensure hot water is not accessible to children.

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.
- Not be permitted to drink hot beverages in any areas where children are allowed.
- 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 an "Outdoor Safety" checklist daily and thus 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 and inform management.
- Utilise water activities in appropriate weather.
- Allow the children the opportunity to experiment with water, sand and mixing materials.
- Monitor the use of the outdoor tap and ensure it is turned off securely when not in use.
- Empty wading pools immediately after every use, store to prevent the collection of water, e.g. upside-down.
- 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.
- 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 the water used in these water activities.
- Ensure laundry, storerooms and adult only areas have “No Children Allowed Signs” on doors/gates to remind adults to close doors/gates behind them.
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water.
- Ensure wading/water troughs are hygienically cleaned and disinfected appropriately.

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.
- Ensure water for pets at the Service must be changed regularly and only be accessible to children when an adult is 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 in accordance with the service’s *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy*.

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.

Source

- Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2018,
- ECA Code of Ethics.
- Guide to the National Quality Standard.
- National Health and Medical Research Council – www.nhmrc.gov.au
- NSW Department of Health – www.health.nsw.gov.au
- Revised National Quality Standard

Review

Date Reviewed	Modifications	Next Policy Review Date
October 2018	Policy reviewed	October 2018
September 2018	<p>Minor changes made to policy Updated to meet the National Law and/or National Regulations in respect of a serious incidents and notification purposes.</p> <p>Updated the references to comply with the revised National Quality Standard</p>	September 2019