

Water Safety

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.

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, practised 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

Related Policies

Educational Program Policy
Physical Environment Policy
Supervision Policy
Health and Safety Policy

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.
- Display a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) guide near any water.
- Ensure water hazards are always supervised.
- Ensure hot water is inaccessible 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
- 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. Educators to supervise 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 are to have **No Children Allowed Signs** on doors to remind adults to close doors behind them.
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water
- A risk assessment has been completed for mops and buckets and staff should refer to this for care around use of these items.
- Ensure wading/water troughs are emptied as appropriate each day, or hygienically cleaned, disinfected appropriately:
 - ✓ On a daily basis remove leaves and debris, hose away surface dirt and scrub inside with disinfectant.
 - ✓ Wash away disinfectant before filling pool/trough.
 - ✓ Children with diarrhoea, upset stomach, open sores or nasal infections should not use the water trough.

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.
- Safety taps are kept out of the reach of children and only used by Educators.
- 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.

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 2015,
- ECA Code of Ethics.
- Guide to the National Quality Standard.
- National Health and Medical Research Council – www.nhmrc.gov.au
- VIC Department of Health – www.health.vic.gov.au
- Revised National Quality Standard

Review

Date Reviewed	Modifications	Next Policy Review Date
August 2017	Minor changes made to policy Updated to meet the National Law and/or National Regulations in respect of a serious incidents and notification purposes.	September 2018
October 2017	Updated the references to comply with the revised National Quality Standard	September 2018
September 2018	Added the section displaying related policies on page 1.	September 2019