

WATER SAFETY

PRINCIPLE

Providing children opportunities to explore their natural environment with water is a unique experience that extends children's learning and development.

Children's safety and wellbeing will be protected in and around water through supervision and education.

GUIDELINES

Children's Services will ensure:

1. Guidance and education is provided to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety with and near water, particularly when attending an excursion where water has been identified as a risk.
2. Water safety awareness is incorporated into the educational program.
3. Educators inspect the indoor and outdoor environments for potential water hazards, particularly during and after wet weather, before children have access. ie puddles or water filled containers that could pose a potential risk to children,
4. Gates and other barriers restricting access to water hazards are closed at all times and that fences are kept clear at all times
5. Any wading/inflatable pool that is capable of a depth of water greater than 300mm (30cm) must have child resistant safety barriers. 'Safety barriers' refer to a fence, wall, gate or screen, and includes doors, gates, windows, locks, latches and self-closing devices attached to them.
6. Wading /inflatable pools, water play containers and portable water courses are emptied immediately after use and stored in a manner that prevents the collection of water when not in use.
7. All fixed water features are risk assessed prior to being implemented.
8. Close, direct supervision of children is maintained at all times where water is accessible to children, and no child is to be left alone when near water (*Education and Care Services National Law – section 165*)
9. Parental permission is obtained for an excursion to a location where there is water hazards (Refer to the *Excursion Policy*).
10. Water hazards and any risks associated with water based experiences during an excursion, are considered in a risk assessment prior to conducting the excursion (*Education and Care Services National Regulation 100; 101(2)(b,c)*).
11. Risks are identified and assessed when transporting children and there are increased levels of supervision for an excursion to a location where there is water hazards

12. An educator with a current approved first aid qualification is in attendance and immediately available at all times children are being educated and cared for by the service (.*Education and Care Services National Regulation 136*)

Related Policies:

- Administration of First Aid
- Emergency Situations
- Excursions
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness
- Providing a Child Safe Environment
- Transportation

National Quality Standards: 2.2.1; 2.2.2; 6.1.3; 7.1.2; 7.1.3

Education and Care Services National Law 2010 section 165,167

Education and Care Services National Regulations: 100; 101(2)(b,c);116; 168(2)(iii)

Children’s Services Regulations 2020 – 69; 70; 112(2)(a)(iii); Occasional Care (Rural only)

Children’s Services Act 1996– Part 4 – 105; 107 - Occasional Care (Rural only)

Sources and Reference Tools:

Education and Care Services National Law 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Children’s Services Regulations 2020

Children’s Services Act 1996

Guide to the National Quality Standards

ACECQA – Water Safety Policy Guidelines

Reviewed: October 2021

Next review due: October 2023

Updated 09/2023 - removing reference to Family Day Care due to cease of Family Day Care operations

Updated 12/2023 – removing reference to Aqua moves due to cease of operation