

Water Safety Policy

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 Standards (NQS)

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety	
2.3	Each child is protected
2.3.1	Children are adequately supervised at all times
2.3.2	Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect Children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury

Quality Area: Staffing arrangements	
4.1	Staffing arrangements enhance children's learning and development and ensure their safety and wellbeing
4.1.1	Educator-to-child ratios and qualification requirements are maintained at all times.

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/ Certified Supervisor will:

- Provide direction and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water.
- Ensure health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and water play.
- 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.

Educators will:

- Supervise children near water at all times
- Never leave children alone near any water
- 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
- Empty wading pools immediately after every use, store to prevent the collection of water, e.g. upright
- 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 children remain standing on the ground whilst using the water trough
- Ensure buckets of water for soaking toys 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.
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water
- Ensure wading/water troughs are hygienically cleaned, disinfected and chlorinated appropriately

Operational Safety

- Educators will discuss with the children the use of water tank water and how it differs from drinking water.

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
- NSW Department of Health – www.health.nsw.gov.au

Review

Policy Review Date
April 2019