

Water Safety Policy

January 2018

Purpose

Our service has a responsibility to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of each child at all times. Drowning is the leading cause of death for children aged 1-4 years in Australia. While most drowning occurs in backyard swimming pools, it is important to be aware that children can drown in as little as 6cm of water.

- Children will be supervised at all times in and around any body of water including water troughs, toilets and nappy buckets.
- A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water.
- The thermostat on the hot water system is set to a medium temperature to ensure children are not able to scald themselves when washing hands.
- Children requiring bathing will be bathed using a washcloth and warm water rather than immersed in a bath.
- Educators are not permitted to consume hot drinks in any area accessible to children.

Responsibilities of the Approved Provider

- Ensure the service operates in line with the Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010 and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.

Responsibilities of the Nominated Supervisor

- Ensure children are adequately supervised, are not subject to inappropriate discipline, and are protected from harms and hazards
- Provide supervision, guidance and advice to ensure adherence to the policy at all times
- Ensure risk assessments for excursions planned near water identify a higher staff to child ratio to ensure adequate supervision
- Ensure First Aid and CPR qualifications and requirements are met at all times
- Provide families with community messages regarding safe water practices

Responsibilities of the Educators

- Embed water safety messages into the children's education program.
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied or covered securely after use.
- Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No cleaning buckets are to be left in areas or accessible to children.
- Discourage children from drinking grey water. Provide clean drinking water at all times.
- Supervise children in toilet/shower facilities within the service

Responsibilities of the Children

- Ensure that every child has an adult with them before approaching an area with water

Responsibilities of the Families

- Reinforce water safety practice with children

Definitions, Terms & Abbreviations

Term	means
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Related Statutory Obligations & Considerations

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA)

<http://www.acecqa.gov.au/>

Children (Education and Care Services Nation Law Application) Act 2010

Department of Education - <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/what-we-offer/regulation-and-accreditation/early-childhood-education-care>

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Kidsafe NSW - <http://www.kidsafensw.org/water-safety/>

Kidsafe NSW - http://www.kidsafensw.org/imagesDB/wysiwyg/SwimmingPoolSafetyKL2009_2.pdf

Kids Health - http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/outdoor/water_safety.html

National Quality Framework (NQF) - <http://acecqa.gov.au/national-quality-framework/>

NSW Government Fair Trading – Pool Fencing Requirements

http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/ftw/Consumers/Product_and_service_safety/Pool_safety/Pool_fencing_requirements.page

Related Telephone Numbers

- Early Childhood Directorate – 1800-619-113
- Kidsafe - 02 9845-0890
- Emergency Services – 000

Amendment History

Version	Amendment	Short Description
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This policy will be updated to ensure compliance with all relevant legal requirements every year. Appropriate consultation of all stakeholders (including staff and families) will be conducted on a timely basis. In accordance with Regulation 172 of the *Education and Care Services National Regulation*, families of children enrolled will be notified at least 14 days and their input considered prior to any amendment of policies and procedures that have any impact on their children or family.

Date:

Version:

Last Amended By:

Next Review:

Position:
