

Water Safety Policy

2020

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	
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

Montessori Works 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.

Strategies

- 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. Ensure that ratios are adequate enough when around large bodies 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 in a shallow sink.
- Educators are not permitted to consume hot drinks or prepare any hot drinks in any area accessible to children.
- Display a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) guide near any swimming pool, wading pool, or body of water.

Responsibilities of the Approved Provider

Ensure the service operates in line with the Children Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations.

Responsibilities of the Nominated Supervisor

- Ensure children are adequately supervised, are not subject to inappropriate discipline, and are protected from harms and hazards (**National Law 166**).
- 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 (**National Regulation 100, 101**).
- 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 such as Kids Alive.
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are **positioned and** 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.
- **Always** supervise children in toilet/shower/bath facilities within the service.
- Ensure that all children are supervised while using toilets.
- 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 and children will be excluded from the area until the hazard has been rectified.
- Monitor all taps on the premises that children have access to and ensure they are turned off securely when not in use.

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 practices with children at home.

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 (NSW) 104a	https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/2010/104a/full
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	https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2011/653
Kidsafe NSW	http://www.kidsafensw.org/water-safety/ http://www.kidsafensw.org/imagesDB/wysiwyg/SwimmingPoolSafetyKL2009_2.pdf
Kids Alive	https://kidsalive.com.au/early-childhood-program/
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	Date
002	Grammar errors fixed Formatting NQS & Regulations Added	October 2019

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: March 2020
Version: 002
Last Amended By: Susan Chahwan
Next Review: 2021
Position: Approved Provider
