



WATER SAFETY POLICY

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Drafted by	Nicole Crook	Approved by Board on	Jul 2019
Responsible person	Nicole Crook	Scheduled review date	Aug 2020

INTRODUCTION

This policy outlines the activities that are defined as water based activities, how to supervise the children during these activities and reminders of the dangers of unsupervised access to pooling water.

PURPOSE

This policy has been created to ensure the safety and welfare of all children during water play and swimming activities and to remind educators of the inherent dangers of these activities.

POLICY

Our service will plan experiences with appropriate levels of challenge, where children will be encouraged to explore, experiment and take appropriate risks, including the use of water as a medium for play, craft and cooking in both the indoor and outdoor environment and on excursions.

Water use will be supervised at all times to ensure the safety of children is a priority. The hygienic state of water will be assessed before it is used for children's play. Drinking water will be accessible, hygienically stored and maintained.

The safety and supervision of children is paramount when in or around water. This relates to water play, excursions near or at bodies of water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water.

The service recognises the following locations as Bodies of Water:

- Swimming pools and /or water fun parks
- Wading pools
- Lakes
- Ponds
- The sea/Ocean
- Creeks

- Dams
- Rivers
- Equipment used by the service that could contain 30cm or more of water and would allow a child to submerge both nose and mouth at the same time.

Water Safety in Relation to Excursions

The service recognises the risks posed by bodies of water and will ensure that precaution is taken so that children are able to enjoy water based excursions safely. Risk Assessments will be carried out for all water based excursions. Authorisations will be sought from families prior to excursions including those involving water based activities.

- Whilst legislation does not specify a specific educator ratio for water based activities, Patersonia will follow the Standards specifying a minimum of 1 adult to every 2 children for water based activities. Higher ratios may be required as part of the Risk Assessment for the individual activity and based on children's age, competency and supervision requirements. It must be noted that in sections 165, 167 and 169 of the Education and Care National Law there are clear statements about adequate supervision.

A range of factors shall be used to determine adequate supervision including:

- Numbers, ages and abilities of children
 - Number and positioning of educators
 - Each child's current activities
 - Areas where children are playing, in particular the visibility and accessibility of those areas
 - Risks in the environment and experiences provided to children
 - Educator's knowledge of each child and each group of children
 - The experience, knowledge and skill of each educator
- All excursions to locations with a pool, water area, fountain, lake, river, dam or beach (or any other body of water) are to be treated as a water based excursion if these areas are not fenced off from the adjacent excursion area
 - All excursions to/on boats, ferries or other water craft are to be treated as water based activities for the period of time on the water/beside the water.
 - Risk Assessments must be completed before each water based activity, with specific detailing of educator ratios of minimum 1 adult to 2 children.
 - On excursions to areas with unfenced bodies of water:
 - Children should be reminded of dangers
 - Boundaries must be marked out
 - Supervisors should be positioned so that some are between the children and the water
 - At least one supervisor should be able to see the water at all times.

Water Safety in relation to water based activities on campus.

- Water use on campus will be supervised to ensure the safety of children and educators is a priority. The hygienic state of water will be assessed before it is used for children's play.
- At the completion of the activity the water containers will be emptied and the containers turned upside down or packed away. Educators will ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water vessels.
- Lawn sprinklers and hoses may be used taking water restriction periods into account.
- Educator to child ratios may be increased around water play activities, or the numbers of children involved limited around any areas of pooling water, buckets or troughs.
- Children will be instructed in the safe use of equipment used during water based activities, for example, slip and slide, water pistols, bubble machines etc.
- Any buckets of water that may be used for cleaning or hand washing will not be left unsupervised near the children and will be emptied immediately after use.
- The children's play areas will be checked each morning to ensure no containers or pools of water are accessible to children. If rain occurs during the day, outdoor play areas will be checked for safety prior to the children entering the outdoor environment.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Board will:

- Regularly review this policy in line with the Policy Review Schedule and any relevant change in legislation or standard practice.

2. The Business Manager will:

- Ensure that the induction process includes training in this policy.
- Where appropriate, delegate responsibility for compliance to officers with responsibility for particular sections.
- Oversee the performance of subordinate officers in these matters.
- Review and report to the Board, as appropriate, on the effectiveness of the management systems.
- Analyse material breaches and identified compliance system weaknesses for systematic trends and ensure that any adverse trends are addressed.
- Promote a culture of effective policy compliance across the organisation.

3. All staff and volunteers at all levels will:

- Ensure that they are aware of the organisation's policy and undertake actions consistent with it.
- Where appropriate, suggest ways in which practices, systems and procedures could be improved so as to improve the policy.

PROCESSES

The Business Manager will review and change the organisation's procedures to ensure that these are in accordance with the principles expressed in this policy.

Staff and volunteers will follow these procedures.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Education and Care Services National Law 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2010 and 2014 Update (r99, 100, 101, 102,103, 165, 167, 168, 169)

National Quality Standard 2.3

Early Years Learning Framework

Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy

Excursion Policy

Work, Health and Safety Act 2012 and Work, Health and Safety Regulations 2012

Excursion Risk Management Plan

Excursion Permission Form