

Policy Statement

- We recognise that opportunities to experience water activities are to be encouraged and are an important way to promote water confidence in children. We take seriously the dangers involved with activities involving water.
- On swimming excursions or visits to public parks or venues that are in the vicinity of water an appropriate staff: child ratio will be maintained to minimise the risk to children's safety.

Considerations

- ✓ The Education and Care Services National Law 2010
- ✓ The Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011
 - Regulation 99 *Children leaving the education and care service premises*
 - Regulation 100 *Risk assessments must be conducted before excursion*
 - Regulation 101 *Conduct of risk assessment for excursion*
 - Regulation 102 *Authorisation for excursions*
 - Regulation 168 *Education and care services must have policies and procedures*
- ✓ The Education and Care Services National Quality Standards 2011.
- ✓ My Time Our Place Framework
- ✓ Activity Centres Inc Excursion Policy, Hygiene and cleaning policy.

Procedures

Water Based activities within the service:

- Water based activities will be promoted throughout the service.
- Water education shall be promoted through formal and informal conversations.
- Children will be instructed in the safe use of equipment used during water-based activities (eg – slip n slide, water pistols, bubble machines etc).
- Water troughs or containers for water play will be filled to a safe level and emptied immediately after each use. Containers will be turned upside down or packed away. Children will be discouraged from drinking out of these water vessels.
- Parents, families and children will be informed of any water play or experiences that will occur that the service.
- Water play activities will be supervised at all times, to ensure the safety of children and staff as a priority.
- Buckets for cleaning or hand washing (during a craft activity etc) will be emptied immediately after each use, turned upside down or packed away.
- Staff will identify known creeks, flood zones and large puddles within the service and supervise during wet weather.
- Children's play area's will be checked each morning to ensure that no containers with water or pools of water are accessible to children.
- If it rains during the day, outdoor play area's are checked for pools of water and hazard removed (eg, buckets emptied, puddles swept etc) prior to children entering the outdoor environment.

Water Safety in relation to excursions:

- Risk assessments will be carried out for all water based excursions, please see ACI excursion policy. Our excursion risk assessment that is conducted for the excursion will determine the staff: child ratio for excursions where there is a body of water present on the excursion.
- Staffing ratio's will be determined, to ensure adequate supervision, by the following factors; numbers, ages and abilities of the children, numbers & positioning of educators, areas children will be playing, activities they will be engaged in, assessability of areas, our knowledge of the children on excursion, and the experience, knowledge and skills of each educator.
- Authorisation from families will be sought prior to excursions, as per regulations, and will inform parents of water based activities and body's of water.
- Staff and Children will comply with current maritime regulations if taken in water vessels (ie ferry to Manly on excursions, harbour cruise, etc.)

Definition of body/pool of water

The service recognises the following locations as bodies and/or pools of water:

- Swimming Pools and/or water fun parks
- Wading pools
- Lakes
- Ponds
- The Sea/Ocean
- Creeks
- Dams
- Rivers
- Any buckets, tubs or containers that could potentially contain 5cm or more of water that could allow a child to submerge both nose and mouth at the same time.
- Any puddles in and around areas children are playing.

Checklist for Staff

- Children instructed in water safety and correct use of water equipment.
- Supervision maintained at all times during water based activities or in and around bodies and/or pools of water.
- Water troughs and/or buckets are emptied immediately and turned upside down to dry or put away.
- Children's play areas are checked for water hazards, pools and bodies of water every day and after significant rain. Areas made safe prior to children entering the play environment.
- Risk assessments are completed for water based excursions and staff: child ratios will be determined by this ratio.

_____ end of policy _____

Policy is only endorsed if initialled by 2 members of the management committee

Endorsed by the Management Committee on the 04th April 2016

Water Safety Policy is to be reviewed by the 04th April 2019