

Water Safety Policy

Policy Statement

Our Organisation recognises that water safety policies and procedures help keep children safe. Children's safety and wellbeing will be protected in and around water through supervision and education.

Procedures – OOSH and LDC

Water Based activities within the Organisation:

- ✓ Water based activities will be promoted throughout the Organisation
- ✓ All water based activities will be adequately supervised and no child will be left unattended when in proximity to water
- ✓ Clear roles and responsibilities ensure that Management and Educators are aware of their roles and responsibilities in relation to water safety
- ✓ Children will be instructed in water safety awareness and 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
- ✓ Parents, families and children will be informed of any water play experiences that will occur at the Service.
- ✓ Buckets for cleaning or hand washing (during a craft activity etc) will be emptied immediately after each use, turned upside down or packed away
- ✓ Educators will identify known creeks, flood zones and large puddles within the Service and supervise during wet weather
- ✓ Children's play areas will be checked each morning to ensure that no containers with water or pools of water are accessible to children
- ✓ Indoor and outdoor environments will be checked for potential water hazards, particularly during and after wet weather
- ✓ Risk Assessments will be conducted when risks are identified with water based activities
- ✓ Procedures for water safety, supervision and removal of water hazards will be included in Educator's orientation training

Water Safety in relation to excursions:

- ✓ Risk Assessments will be carried out for all water based excursions, see ACI Excursion Policy. The Excursion Risk Assessment will determine the staff:child ratio for the excursion where there is a body of water present on the excursion
- ✓ Staffing ratios will be determined, to ensure adequate supervision, by the following factors:
 - Child numbers
 - Ages and abilities of the children
 - Numbers and positioning of Educators
 - Activities they will be engaged in
 - Accessibility
- ✓ Written authorisation from families will be sought prior to Excursions, as per Regulations, and will inform parents of water based activities and bodies of water
- ✓ Educators 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
- ✓ 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

Considerations

Education and Care Services National Law

165	Offence to inadequately supervise children
167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards

Education and Care Services National Regulations

25	Additional information about proposed education and care service premises
73	Educational Program
97	Emergency and evacuation procedures
98	Telephone or other communication equipment
101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursion
102C	Conduct of risk assessment for transporting of children by the education and care service
104	Fencing
105	Furniture, materials and equipment
106	Laundry and hygiene facilities
107	Space requirements – indoor space
108	Space requirements – outdoor space
109	Toilet and hygiene facilities
112	Nappy change facilities
113	Outdoor space – natural environment
114	Outdoor space - shade
115	Premises designed to facilitate supervision
123	Educator to child ratios – centre based services
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
170	Policies and procedures to be followed
171	Policies and procedures to be kept available
274	Swimming Pools

Education and Care Services National Quality Standards

Quality Area	Standard	Element
QA 2 Children's health and safety	2.1 Health	2.1.1 Wellbeing and comfort
		2.1.3 Healthy lifestyle
	2.2 Safety	2.2.1 Supervision
QA3 Physical environment	3.1 Design	3.1.1 Fit for purpose
		3.1.2 Upkeep
	3.2 Use	3.2.1 Inclusive environment
		3.2.2 Resources support play based learning
QA4 Staffing arrangements	4.1 Staffing arrangements	4.1.1 Organisation of Educators
QA5 Relationships with children	5.2 Relationships between children	5.2.1 Collaborative learning
QA6 Collaborative Partnerships with families and community	6.2 Collaborative partnerships	6.2.3 Community engagement
QA 7 Governance and Leadership	7.1 Governance	7.1.2 Management Systems

Activity Centres Inc. Policies and Procedures

Building and Premises	Physical Environment
Child Protection	Programming
Child Safe Environment	Reporting to Regulatory Authority

Water Safety Policy

Comfort	Security
Emergency	Staff Child Ratio
Enrolment	Staff Professionalism
Equipment and Maintenance of Equipment	Staff Training
Excursion	Storage
First Aid Policy – Management of Incident, Injury, Illness and Trauma	Sun Protection
Hygiene and Cleaning	Supervision
Inclusion	Vacation Care
Laundry	Work Health and Safety
Orientation	

My Time, Our Place

Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children feel safe, secure and supported Children develop their autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency
Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing

Early Years Learning Framework

Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children feel safe, secure and supported Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency
Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing

Legislation

Websites

Kidsafe Australia	www.kidsafe.com.au
Royal Life Saving Australia	www.nsw@royal.nsw.com.au
Safe Work Australia	www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au
Unicef	www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention
Work Health and Safety	www.safework.nsw.gov.au

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Policy is only endorsed if initialled by 2 members of the Management Committee

Endorsed by the Management Committee on the 11 November 2022
 Water Safety Policy is to be reviewed by the 11 November 2027