

WATER SAFETY

POLICY STATEMENT

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

Water use 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. Drinking water will be accessible but 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 in the service environment.

Children will wear SunSmart clothing for a water based activity and educators will role model effective sun smart behaviour and encourage children to do the same.

CONSIDERATIONS

Education and Care Services National Regulations	99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 168
National Quality Standard	1.1, QA2, 3.2
Other Service policies/documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health & Safety Policies• Excursion policy• Sun Protection policy• Risk Assessment policy• Risk Assessments
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• My Time, Our Place• Work, Health & Safety Act 2011• Guild Insurance Policy

PROCEDURE

a) Water Safety in relation to excursions

- The service recognises the risks posed by bodies of water. We will ensure that every precaution is taken so that children are able to enjoy water-based excursions safely. Risk assessments will be carried out for programmed water-based excursions.
- The National Law and Regulations do not specify an educator to child ratio for activities where water is a feature. The number of educators present is to be determined by a risk assessment of the proposed activity. It must also be noted that in regulations 165, 167 and 169 of the National Law there are clear statements about adequate supervision. A range of factors shall determine the adequacy of supervision, including:

- Numbers, ages and abilities of the children
 - Number and positioning of educators
 - Each child's current activity
 - Areas where children are playing, in particular the visibility and accessibility of these areas
 - Risks in the environment and experiences provided to children
 - Educators' knowledge of each child and each group of children
 - The experience, knowledge and skill of each educator
- A risk management plan will be undertaken for all excursions near or at bodies of water. Please refer to our Excursion Policy.
 - We will not plan excursions involving swimming in open water (i.e. oceans/beaches) due to our insurance policy requirements.

b) Definition of a body of water

- We recognise the following locations are 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 5cm or more of water and would allow a child to submerge both nose and mouth at the same time.

c) Water safety in relation to water-based activities within the service

- Water use within the service will be supervised to ensure that 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. These activities will be supervised at all times by adults and containers or troughs will be emptied onto garden areas after use. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water vessels.
- Children will be instructed in the safe use of equipment used during water-based

activities, for example, slip and slide, water “guns”, 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 that no containers or pools of water are accessible for children. If rain occurs during the day, outdoor play areas will be checked for safety prior to the children entering the outdoor environment.

d) Access to Water

- Children will have access to safe drinking water via the school bubblers at all times.
- Hot water will only be accessible in the kitchen. Children will not have access to hot water unless supervised by an educator.