

E-7 Water Safety

National Quality Standards (NQS)

2.1	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted
2.1.2	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard
2.2.2	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented.
4.1	Staffing arrangements enhance children's learning and development
4.1.1	The organisation of educators across the service supports children's learning and development
7.1.2	Systems are in place to manage risk and enable the effective management and operation of a quality service.

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Reg. 77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
Reg. 100	Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion
Reg. 101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursion
Reg. 102	Authorisation for excursions
Reg. 168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures

My Time, Our Place

1.1	Children feel safe, secure, and supported
2	Children are connected with and contribute to their world
3.2	Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing
4.4	Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials

Policy Statement

We aim to let children explore freely through structured and spontaneous experiences including water play. We aim to provide a safe environment for children to explore water play both at the service and on excursions. Staff will supervise all water use and ensure that appropriate sun safety guidelines are followed by both staff and children when dealing with water play outdoors.

Related Policies

- Excursions Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Hygiene Policy
- Indoor and Outdoor Environment Policy
- Management of Incident, Injury and Trauma Policy
- Staff / Child Ratios Policy
- Sun Protection Policy
- Supervision Policy

Procedure

Children's safety and wellbeing is paramount when in or around water. This may include water play, excursions near or at bodies of water, hot water, mop buckets, craft water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the service environment. Children will be adequately supervised at all times during water play experiences. Hot water shall never be left unattended by staff and will be restricted to the kitchen area. Staff must remain with mop buckets until the bucket is empty. Staff will ensure that there is never a container or bucket containing water unsupervised.

Water safety in relation to excursions

A Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan will be conducted prior to any excursions (see Excursion Policy). Staff will be informed of any water hazards prior to going on the excursion.

There are no set staff to child ratios for primary aged children in NSW around water, however, we will maintain a ratio of a maximum of 5 children to 1 staff around large bodies of water.

To ensure adequate supervision is maintained staff will take into consideration:

- Numbers, ages and abilities of the children
- Number and positioning of staff
- 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
- Staff knowledge of each child and each group of children, the experience, knowledge and skill of each staff member

Definition of a body of 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 5cm or more of water and would allow a child to submerge both nose and mouth at the same time.

Water safety in relation to water-based activities at the service

- Fresh water will always be used for water play
- Staff will assess whether or not the water is hygienic
- Staff will supervise water play at all times
- Staff will role model sun safety
- Staff will ensure that children wear hats and sunscreen
- Staff will ensure that water play containers are only filled to a safe level. After use, containers will be emptied on the garden and turned upside down.
- Children will be instructed in the safe use of equipment used during water-based activities, for example, slip and slide, 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.

Sources

- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Framework for School-Age Care in Australia – My Time, Our Place
- National Quality Standard – Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority
- Network of Community Activities – Water Safety Sample Policy

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Version Control			
Version	Changes Made	Initiated By	Director Sign-off
v.2.202209	- Updated NQS, National Regulations and MTOP - Updated related policies - Minor word changes to procedure	Staff	
v.2.202006	- No changes made		
v.2.201906	- Updated links to NQS and National Regulations	Staff	