

D-17 WATER SAFETY POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

Water safety practices and procedures help keep children safe in and around water and support their learning and enjoyment of water in a safe environment. Children's safety and wellbeing will be protected in and around water through supervision, which is recognized as being the most important factor in water safety.

Our service recognizes the risks posed by bodies of water and water features. Any equipment that could contain 5cm or more of water and would allow a child to submerge both nose and mouth at the same time can pose a serious hazard.

A body of water may include dams, ponds, swimming pools and water fun parks, water fountains, wading pools, lakes, rovers, the sea/ocean, creeks, dams, large drains or any areas that retain water. Water hazards or water features also include items such as plastic water shells, containers, sinks, pet drinking bowl, slide and splash pools, water features and water tanks, all of which are also potential hazards.

PROCEDURE

a) Purpose and management of water-based play

- The safety, health and wellbeing of children is our number one priority. No child will be left unsupervised at any time when in proximity to a body of water or when water hazards are present.
- Water-based play is an important part of our children's healthy growth, learning, wellbeing and development. Our educators and other staff will ensure that all precautions are employed to safeguard children during these experiences.
- Clear roles and responsibilities ensure that management, educators and other staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in relation to water safety.
- We create opportunities for children to learn and develop. This includes incorporating water safety awareness into the educational program.
- Educators will ensure that sun safety practices are followed during water-based activities outside to protect children from sunburn, heat stroke and to promote sun safe practices for their lifelong wellbeing.

b) Water-based activities within the service

- Activities involving water play will be supervised at all times by educators to ensure the safety of children.
- The hygienic state of water will be assessed before it is used for children's play and Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water vessels.
- At the completion of the activity containers holding water will be emptied, turned upside down or packed away.
- 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 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.
- A risk assessment will be undertaken prior to the implementation of higher risk water-based activities involving equipment such as slide and splash castles, wading pools etc.

c) Water safety in relation to excursions

- The regulations do not specify a specific educator to child ratio for activities where water is a feature however sections 165 and 167 of the National Law prescribe adequate supervision to protect children from harm and hazards.
- The number of educators present will be determined by a risk assessment of the proposed activity. A range of factors shall determine the adequacy of supervision, including:
 - Number, ages and abilities of the children
 - Areas where children are playing, in particular the visibility and accessibility of these areas
 - Risks in the environment and the nature of the experiences provided to children
 - Educators' knowledge of each child and each group of children
 - The experience, knowledge and skill of each educator
- Risk assessments for water-based excursions will be conducted in person by the Nominated Supervisor/Co-ordinator to assist in a proper assessment of the risks.

CONSIDERATIONS

National Quality Standards

1.1.1	Approved learning framework	Curriculum decision-making contributes to each child's learning and development outcomes in relation to their identity, connection with community, wellbeing, confidence as learners and effectiveness as communicators
2.1	Health	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented
2.1.3	Healthy lifestyle	Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented
3.1.2	Upkeep	Premises, furniture and equipment are safe, clean and well maintained
7.1.2	Management systems	Systems are in place to manage risk and enable the effective management of a quality service

Education and Care Service National Regulations 2011

S165	Offence to inadequately supervise children
S167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards
R25(1)(c)	Additional information about proposed education and care service premises
R101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursion
R168(2)(a)(iii)	Education and care services must have policies and procedures on water safety, including safety during any water-based activities
R171	Policies and procedures to be kept available
R160	Child enrolment records to be kept by approved provider
R161	Authorisations to be kept in enrolment record
R168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
R170	Policies and procedures to be followed
R171	Policies and procedures to be kept available
R172	Notification of change to policies or procedures

Related Policies / Forms

Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations policy
Providing a child safe environment policy
Safe transportation of children policy
The administration of first aid policy
Excursions policy
Incident, injury, trauma and illness policy
Family Information Booklet
Excursion Risk Assessments

ENDORSEMENT AND REVIEWS

Date	Action
06.12.2012	Approved by SNCC Board
14.03.2024	Last Review Date
March 2027	Next Review Date