

Cowandilla Children's Centre

Water Safety Policy

This Policy Relates to National QA 2

Cowandilla Children's Centre recognises that water-based play is an important part of children's healthy growth, learning, wellbeing and development. Experiences with water encourage children's active exploration, discovery and care of the natural environment.

We recognise the risks involved with water play and excursions that involve water.

The purpose of this policy is to enable children's safety in and around water and support children's learning in a safe environment.

We create opportunities for children to learn and develop. This includes incorporating water safety awareness into the educational program.

Any water body that poses a potential drowning risk to children and could include:

- large bodies of water, such as rivers, creeks, dams, ponds, swimming pools, or any container with poor drainage that allows water to pool
- smaller bodies of water, such as baths, nappy buckets and pet water containers.

All water-based activities will be actively supervised and no child will be left unattended when in proximity to water. Active supervision includes:

- direct and constant monitoring of children, scanning and moving around the environment
- careful and intentional positioning, observing play and anticipating behaviour
- listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise

Environments that contain water

Keep doors to the nappy change area, kitchen and adult's bathroom closed and latched/locked when unattended by adults. Actively monitor children's use of children's bathroom.

Water-play experiences

- will be prepared in consideration of educator's ability to actively supervise. Buckets, water trough or containers may be prepared for play BUT no water is to be filled until the vessel is under staff supervision.
- Removable tap heads are to be placed out of the reach of children once adequate water has been dispensed.
- NO WATER is to be left in containers at the completion of play activity. All buckets and containers are to be emptied and stored upside down and out of children's reach.

Excursions involving water

A DfE Excursions Risk Management Plan will be developed when planning water activities with specific thought given to the group dynamic and each child's capabilities with particular care being taken for children with special needs or sensory issues.

Related Legislation and Regulations

Education and Early Childhood Services (Registration and Standards) Act 2011, Schedule 1 Education and Care Services National Law (South Australia)

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Reg 100 Risk assessment must be conducted for excursion Reg 101 Conduct of risk assessment for excursion

Date Approved by Cowandilla Primary School: Monday 22nd August

Chairperson: Russell Taylor

To be reviewed Term 3, 2025