



WATER SAFETY PROCEDURE

NQS: QA 2 - CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY Regulation 168

Rationale

Early childhood services are required to have a water safety procedure that outlines how they will manage water safety including water based activities. Services are required to undertake a risk assessment to consider water safety and potential water hazards when undertaking excursions. These requirements are in line with [Regulation 168 \(2\) \(2\) \(iii\)](#) of the Education and Care National Regulations.

This procedure is informed by the Kidsafe Drowning Information Fact sheet <https://kidsafe.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Drowning-Information-Sheet.pdf>

Scope

A water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth and includes sinks, basins, fish tanks, baths, pool, water courses, ponds, sandpits, water troughs, containers, buckets and anywhere that water pools.

Educators recognise that water play has significant benefits for children. While water play is calming and cooling in warmer weather, it also offers therapeutic benefits to children. Additionally, water play assists children to develop gross and fine motors skills, cognitive skills and social and emotional development. All water play must be offered to children in a way that meets both their learning and safety needs.

Detail

Active supervision

Educators will:

- Actively supervise at all times
- Maximise supervisions through intentional placement of water troughs
- scan and move around the play area
- listen closely for sounds or the absence of noise
- observe play and anticipate behaviour
- apply higher ratios for any water based excursions

Eliminating hazards

Educators will:

- Empty water troughs and containers immediately after use
- Remove the plug from the trough whilst in storage so it will not fill
- Ensure that sand pit water is draining freely
- Ensure that receptacles for water play and mud kitchen cannot fit a child's nose and mouth
- Ensure that any water receptacles that can fit a child's nose and mouth have drainage holes

Restricting access:

- The centre does not use wading pools or any water play activities that require fencing.

First Aid – At all times at least 1 staff member with a current approved first aid qualification will be in attendance.

Risk assessments

- Educators undertake a risk assessment for water play which is reviewed on a regular basis.
- Risk assessments are undertaken for excursions which feature water based activities

References

Kidsafe Drowning Information Fact sheet

<https://kidsafe.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Drowning-Information-Sheet.pdf>

Department for Education Preschool Water Safety procedure

New Procedure: August 2022

Endorsed by Governing Council:

Next review August 2025