



Preschool Water Safety Procedure

Procedure overview

The 'preschool water safety procedure' provides instructions in relation to managing water safety, including during water-based activities. Education and care services are required to have policies and procedures in place in relation to water safety to comply with the Education and Care Services National Regulations (R 168 (2) (a) (iii)).

Scope

This procedure applies to all staff in a Department for Education (the department) preschool including occasional care and rural care programs.

PROCEDURE DETAIL

- Active Supervision of children is to be maintained at all times when water play activities are provided. Staff must remain close to the water play areas
- Any water vessel that can hold more than 5 cm of water is to be emptied immediately after use and stored away or inverted to prevent filling with water when not being used
- All areas of play area are to be designed to ensure adequate drainage of water to avoid pooling of water
- Risk assessments are conducted for excursions where there are potential or known water hazards
- Risk assessments are conducted for specific water play areas
- Effective barriers are in place to prevent children accessing water hazards in or around the site.
- Children are to have safe independent access to clean and cool drinking water at all times

In the event of an incident, injury or 'near-miss', please refer to Department for Education [First Aid for Schools and Preschools](#). These risk controls detailed are implemented and monitored in line with DfE [Safety Management Procedure](#)

OBJECTIVES

Water play experiences are beneficial for children's sensory development and provide opportunities for children to develop an understanding of their environment.


We provide water experiences for children to engage in active play that help them explore their world and provide multiple opportunities to engage in STEM learning.

ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES

- Preschool directors/school principals
 - Complying with the requirements of this procedure
 - Developing a local water safety procedure based on a completed risk assessment
 - Accessing a copy of the risk assessment through the Incident and Response Management System (IRMS) (interfaces with the hazard and corrective action reporting function) for reference during the preschool's assessment and rating process.
 - The procedure will be available on the sites web page
- Educators
 - Complying with the department's 'preschool water safety procedure' and the local services' water safety policy
 - Reporting identified hazards and notifying other people in the immediate vicinity that a hazard is present
- Parents
 - Will be made aware of this policy upon enrolment of their child at the centre

MONITOR AND REVIEW

This procedure will be monitored and reviewed by Director, Educators and Governing Council


Chairperson.....
October 2023

Policy review Date: October 2025