



Water Safety Policy

Renown Park Children's Centre values water play as a sensory experience that develops children's learning and wellbeing through exploration, curiosity, imagination, and experimentation.

We recognise that the safety and supervision of children is paramount when in or around water. We understand the risks that water-based activities pose and will undertake measures to protect the health and safety of all children involved in water-based activities.

A water hazard is anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth. There are a number of water hazards in a child's learning environment including: sinks, basins, baths, bowls, water courses, sand pits, water troughs, containers, buckets, pooling water.

Educators will:

- Complete a risk assessment before allowing children to engage in water-based activities at the service or on excursion and ensure all risks are minimised or eliminated where possible.
- Closely supervise children at all times and never leave any child unattended near water.
- Ensure children with diarrhoea, upset stomachs, open sores or nasal infections do not play in water.
- Check the environment is designed to ensure adequate drainage of water to avoid pooling
- Ensure children do not have access to the laundry or kitchen

To prevent accidents and illness related to water-based activities at Renown Park Children's Centre, educators will:

- Empty water immediately after use and store in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use (e.g. upright).
- Check premises after rain or regular watering and empty/dissipate water that has collected in pot-holes or containers.
- Ensure direct and constant monitoring of children (within arm's length, 1-2 meters)
- Careful intentional positioning
- Scanning and moving around the area
- Listening closely for the absence of noise
- Observing play and anticipating behaviour
- Higher adult/child ratios

This information relates specifically to and meets the requirements of Regulation 168 of the *Education and Care Services National Regulations*.

Source used: Education Standards Board Water Safety Fact Sheets [Water safety | Education Standards Board SA \(esb.sa.gov.au\)](#)

Kidsafe and Department for Education: [water safety in education and care settings \(PDF 352 KB\)](#)

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