



Waikerie Children's Centre
16 Marks Tce
Waikerie SA 5330
Ph: 8541 2692 Fax: 8541 3126

WATER SAFETY POLICY

Rationale

The Waikerie Children's Centre ensures appropriate water safety policies and procedures are in place and ensure safety during any water-based activities and excursions.

Children need opportunities to develop their understanding of the natural environment. Experiences with water encourage active exploration and discovery of the environment.

Knowledge of potential hazards associated with water will assist educators to provide a safe, stimulating environment for our children.

While swimming pools are an obvious hazard, other drowning hazards for young children include nappy storage buckets, toilets, animal water containers, ponds and poor drainage which allow water to pool.

Management of water play and facilities

- Children must be adequately supervised at all times when having access to any water hazards.
- All paddling pools, buckets, unlidded water troughs and other water receptacles used at the Centre are emptied after use and stored in such a manner that they cannot collect water while not in use.
- Removable plugs that are used to hold water in containers will be placed out of reach of children's reach when not in use.
- All children being cared for at the Centre are adequately supervised at all times.
- Removable tap handles for all taps outside will be secured in outdoor sheds when not in use.
- Where a water vessel is used for water play by children, the vessel must be emptied immediately after use and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use.
- Water troughs must have their lids placed back on top and secured with a weight source when children are not present.
- Toilets will be regularly checked by staff.

Site safety

The fence and perimeter gates are to be closed at all times and meet Australian Standard guidelines. The centre identifies a fenced water source approximately 200 metre west of the premises.

When children are taken on an excursion where there is a significant water hazard, educators are to conduct a risk assessment.

Pooling water from irrigation overflow will be swept away.

Children are to have safe independent access to clean and cool drinking water at all times.

Site inspections

The Waikerie Children's Centre will undertake safety inspections at least annually to ensure sites are free from water hazards. The safety inspection checklist (DOC, 107.5 KB) has been developed as a guide.

Related source: National Quality Standard and Regulations

- [National Quality Standard 2.3 \(PDF, 1.6 MB\)](#)
- [Regulation 168 \(2\) \(a\) \(iii\) \(PDF, 70.1 KB\)](#)

Related sources: DECD Policy and procedures

- [Preschool water safety procedure \(PDF, 339.3 KB\)](#)
- [Risk management policy \(PDF, 424.8 KB\)](#)
- [Risk management framework \(PDF, 796.7 KB\)](#)
- [Hazard management procedure \(PDF, 756.4 KB\)](#)
- [OHS&W and injury management policy \(2010 Health and Safety Services\) \(PDF, 267.9 KB\)](#)
- [Camps and excursions – guidelines for schools and preschools 2007](#)

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS & REFERENCES

Risk Management Policy and Framework

Safety Inspection Checklist - Grounds

Kidsafe NSW - Water Safety

Royal Life Saving Protection Australia - Fact Sheets

Updated August 2020

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