

20.1 Water Safety Procedure

Quality Area 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH & SAFETY

Standard 2.2 Safety

Standard 2.2.1 Supervision

Regulation 115 Premises designed to facilitate supervision

Regulation 122 Educators must be working directly with children to be included in ratios

PURPOSE

To ensure the safety and supervision of children in and around water. This includes water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the service environment.

SCOPE

This procedure applies to all children, educators, visitors and management of the Service

IMPLEMENTATION

Service Manager /Nominated Supervisor/ Responsible person will:

- Provide direction and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water
- Ensure health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and water play
- Ensure premises adjacent to or providing access to, any water hazards that are always not able to be adequately supervised (e.g. dams, swimming pool) are isolated from children by a child resistant barrier or fence
- Conduct a risk assessment in accordance with the requirements prior to taking children on an excursion which contains or may contain water
- Ensure at least one educator who holds a current approved first aid qualification always attends

Educators will:

- always supervise children near water
- Never leave children alone near any water
- Ensure children in a bath are directly supervised at all times
- Ensure fish / frog ponds and water features that are not able to be adequately supervised at all times and/or pose an unacceptable risk to children are guarded or effective barriers are in place
- Complete a *Daily Safety Checklist* of premises to ensure that all hazards are known and minimised. When a hazard or potential hazard is detected, Educators will complete a risk assessment to address any concerns
- Utilise water activities in appropriate weather
- Allow the children the opportunity to experiment with water, sand and mixing materials plus a place for boats & floating objects to be used with other water play equipment
- Monitor the tap and ensure it is turned off securely when not in use

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- Safely cover or make inaccessible to children all water containers, e.g. nappy buckets
- Empty wading pools immediately after every use, store to prevent the collection of water, e.g. upright, also check garden after rain or watering and empty water that has collected in holes or containers
- Encourage children to use water effectively and teach them to learn new ways to save and re-use water to support sustainability
- Children always have safe independent access to clean drinking water
- Ensure water troughs are not used without a stand
- Ensure children remain standing on the ground whilst using the water trough
- Ensure buckets of water for soaking toys or clothing are inaccessible to children
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied into the garden areas after use
- Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water

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