



Water Safety Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

The safety and supervision of children is paramount when in or around water. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the Out of School Hours Care Service environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences to help keep children safe in and around water and support children's learning in a safe environment.

WATER HAZARDS

The National Regulations make reference to '*water hazards*' however the term is not expressly defined. In this policy, a water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth and a 'water hazard' may include:

- large bodies of water such as dams, creeks, river or pooling water, swimming pool, portable pools and spas, jetted bathtubs (or Jacuzzis)
- fishponds
- smaller bodies of water such as baths, mop buckets
- sinks, basins
- water features, such as a wishing well
- containers for feeding animals
- water troughs, containers for paddling- clam shells
- beach

THE APPROVED PROVIDER/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR WILL:

- adhere to all obligations under the *Education and Care National Law and Regulations*
- ensure educators, staff, students and volunteers have knowledge of and adhere to this policy and associated procedure
- complete detailed risk assessments that identify and assess risks associated with any water hazards and water-based activities
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- ensure water hazards and water play are always highly supervised including:
 - direct and constant monitoring of children
 - careful and intentional positioning of educators
 - scanning and moving around the environment
 - observing play and anticipating behaviour
 - ensuring higher adult to child ratios
 - ensuring no child is left unattended when in proximity to water
- provide direction and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety and supervision in and around water
- ensure health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and water play
- conduct a risk assessment in accordance with the requirements prior to taking children on an excursion which is near water- consider any water hazards and any risks associated with water-based activities before an excursion/incursion is approved
- ensure at least one educator who holds current approved first aid qualifications, that was attained within the previous three years (Reg. 136), is in attendance at the Service at all times
- ensure at least one educator has successfully completes cardio pulmonary resuscitation training (CPR) each year, is in attendance at the OSHC Service at all times
- ensure hot water is inaccessible to children, including hot drinks accessed by educators, staff or families
- ensure the regulatory authority is notified within 24 hours of becoming aware of a serious incident.

EDUCATORS WILL:

- provide active supervision when children are participating in water activities including:
 - supervise children near water at all times
 - never leave children alone near any water



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- direct and constant monitoring of children
 - scanning and moving around the environment
 - observing play and anticipating behaviour
- 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 Inspection 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 and children will be excluded from the area until the hazard has been rectified.
- utilise water activities in appropriate weather as part of the planned program
- allow the children the opportunity to experiment with water, sand, and mixing materials
- incorporate water safety awareness into the educational program
- monitor all taps on the premises that children have access to and ensure they are turned off securely when not in use
- safely cover or make inaccessible to children all water containers
- check for and empty any water that has collected in holes or containers after rainfall or watering gardens
- 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 each use
- they teach children about staying safe in and around water

OPERATIONAL SAFETY

- hot water accessible to children will be maintained at an appropriate temperature
- hot drinks are not to be consumed near children by educators, students or visitors



EXCURSIONS:

- Risk Assessments will be carried out for all water based excursions. The Excursion Risk Assessment will determine the staff: child ratio for the Excursion where there is a body of water present. Staffing ratios will be determined, to ensure adequate supervision, by the following factors:
 - Child numbers
 - Ages and abilities of the children
 - Numbers and positioning of Educators
 - Activities they will be engaged in
 - Accessibility of areas
- Written authorisation from families will be sought prior to excursions, as per regulations, and will inform parents of water based activities and bodies of water
- Educators and children will comply with current maritime regulations if taken in water vessels (ie ferry, harbour cruise, etc.)

Important: Parents will be notified as soon as practicable but within 24 hours if their child is involved in an incident/accident at the OSHC Service or while under Service care. Details of the incident/accident will be recorded on an *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record*.

Reg. 176: If the incident/accident, situation or event presents imminent or severe risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of the child or if an ambulance was called in response to the emergency (not as a precaution) the regulatory authority will be notified within 24 hours. Educators will follow emergency procedures and contact emergency Services if a child appears to be missing or unaccounted for or is involved in a serious incident or accident.



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CONSIDERATIONS

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW AND NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
S. 165	Offence to inadequately supervise children
S. 167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards
12	Meaning of a serious incident
101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursions
115	Premises designed to facilitate supervision
122	Educators must be working directly with children to be included in ratios
168(2)(a)(iii)	Education and care service must have policies and procedures in relation to- Water safety, including safety during any water-based activities
170	Policies and procedures to be followed
176	Time to notify the certain information to the Regulatory Authority

RELATED POLICIES

Administration of First Aid Policy Child Safe Environment Policy Educational Program Policy Excursion/Incursion Policy	Health and Safety Policy Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy Physical Environment Policy Sun Safe Policy Supervision Policy
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UPDATED AND ENDORSED: August 2025

DATE FOR REVIEW AND EVALUATION: December 2028