



Coowarra Out Of School Hours Care Service Inc

Water Safety Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

Coowarra OOSH wants children and young people who participate in our program to have a safe and happy experience while at the centre and out on excursions. Coowarra will ensure that they follow the centres policies and procedures to ensure the children are in a safe, structured and fun environment.

PROCEDURE

Water Based activities within the centre:

- Water based activities will be promoted throughout the centre
- All water based activities will be adequately supervised and no child will be left unattended when in proximity to water
- Clear roles and responsibilities ensure that Management and Educators are aware of their roles and responsibilities in relation to water safety
- Children will be instructed in water safety awareness and the safe use of equipment used during water-based activities (eg – slip n slide, water pistols, bubble machines etc)
- Water troughs or containers for water play will be filled to a safe level and emptied immediately after each use. Containers will be turned upside down or packed away
- Buckets for cleaning or hand washing (during a craft activity etc) will be emptied immediately after each use, turned upside down or packed away
- Educators will identify known large puddle areas within the Service and supervise during wet weather
- Children's play areas will be checked each morning to ensure that no containers with water or pools of water are accessible to children
- Indoor and outdoor environments will be checked for potential water hazards, particularly during and after wet weather
- Risk Assessments will be conducted when risks are identified with water based activities
- Procedures for water safety, supervision and removal of water hazards will be included in Educator's orientation training
- A qualified First Aid Educator will be present at the centre at all times.
- The water play experiences will be hygienic and appropriate for all ages.
- Inflatable water slides will only be hired from reputable companies who provide risk assessments and safety training.



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Water Safety in relation to 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.)

Definition of body/pool of water

- The service recognises the following locations as bodies and/or pools of water:

Swimming Pools	Water fun parks
Wading pools	Lakes
Ponds	Ocean
Creeks	Dams
Rivers	

Warmer weather

During warmer months (terms one and four), water play experiences will be more frequently incorporated in our program.

Cooler weather

During cooler months (terms two and three), water play experiences will be used less frequently in our programming.



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CONSIDERATIONS

Education and Care Services National Laws and Regulations	National Quality Standard	Other Service policies/documentation
<p><u>National Law</u> 165 Offence to inadequately supervise children 167 Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards</p> <p><u>Regulations</u> 25 Additional information about proposed education and care service premises 73 Educational Program 97 Emergency and evacuation procedures 98 Telephone or other communication equipment 101 Conduct of risk assessment for excursion 104 Fencing 105 Furniture, materials and equipment 106 Laundry and hygiene facilities 107 Space requirements – indoor space 108 Space requirements – outdoor space 109 Toilet and hygiene facilities 113 Outdoor space – natural environment 114 Outdoor space - shade 115 Premises designed to facilitate supervision 123 Educator to child ratios – centre based services 168 Education and care service must have policies and procedures 170 Policies and procedures to be followed 171 Policies and procedures to be kept available 274 Swimming Pools</p>	<p>QA 2 Children’s health and safety 2.1 Health 2.1.1 Wellbeing and comfort 2.1.3 Healthy lifestyle 2.2 Safety 2.2.1 Supervision</p> <p>QA3 Physical environment 3.1 Design 3.1.1 Fit for purpose 3.1.2 Upkeep 3.2 Use 3.2.1 Inclusive environment 3.2.2 Resources support play based learning</p> <p>QA4 Staffing arrangements 4.1 Staffing arrangements 4.1.1 Organisation of Educators</p> <p>QA5 Relationships with children 5.2 Relationships between children 5.2.1 Collaborative learning</p> <p>QA6 Collaborative Partnerships with families and community 6.2 Collaborative partnerships 6.2.3 Community engagement</p> <p>QA 7 Governance and Leadership 7.1 Governance 7.1.2 Management Systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parent Handbook - Staff Handbook - Enrolment and Orientation Policy - Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy - Dropping off and Picking up children policy - Excursions Policy - Building and premises - Physical Environment - Child Protection - Programming - Reporting to Regulatory Authority - Emergency - Staff Child Ratio - Staff Professionalism - Equipment and Maintenance of Equipment - Excursion policy - First Aid Policy – Management of Incident, Injury, Illness and Trauma - Sun Protection - Hygiene and Cleaning - Supervision - Inclusion - Vacation Care - Work Health and Safety - Kidsafe Australia www.kidsafe.com.au - Royal Life Saving Australia www.nsw@royalns.com.au - Safe Work Australia www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au - Unicef www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention - Work Health and Safety www.safework.nsw.gov.au

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