

# POLICY

## Water Safety

### Purpose

Our service has a responsibility to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of each child at all times. Drowning is the leading cause of death for children aged 1-4 years in Australia. While most drowning occurs in backyard swimming pools, it is important to be aware that children can drown in as little as 6cm of water.

### Implementation

#### *Responsibilities of the Approved Provider*

- Ensure the service operates in line with the Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010 and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.

#### *Responsibilities of the Nominated Supervisor*

- Ensure children are adequately supervised, are not subject to inappropriate discipline, and are protected from harms and hazards
- Provide supervision, guidance and advice to ensure adherence to the policy at all times
- Ensure risk assessments for excursions planned near water identify a higher staff to child ratio to ensure adequate supervision
- Ensure First Aid and CPR qualifications and requirements are met at all times
- Provide families with community messages regarding safe water practices
- The thermostat on the hot water system is set to a medium temperature to ensure children are not able to scald themselves when washing hands.

#### *Responsibilities of the Educators*

- Children will be supervised at all times in and around any body of water including water troughs and toilets.
- Embed water safety messages into the children's education program.
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied or covered securely after use.
- Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No cleaning buckets are to be left in areas or accessible to children.
- Discourage children from drinking grey water. Provide clean drinking water at all times.
- Supervise children in toilet/shower facilities within the service
- Children requiring bathing will be bathed using a washcloth and warm water rather than immersed in a bath.
- Educators are not permitted to consume hot drinks in any area accessible to children

#### *Responsibilities of the Children*

- Ensure that every child has an adult with them before approaching an area with water

#### *Responsibilities of the Families*

- Reinforce water safety practice with children

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### *Definitions, Terms & Abbreviations*

<b>Term</b>	<b>means</b>
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

### Legislation and Sources

#### **Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA)**

<http://www.acecqa.gov.au/>

#### **Children (Education and Care Services Nation Law Application) Act 2010**

**Department of Education** - <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/what-we-offer/regulation-and-accreditation/early-childhood-education-care>

#### **Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011**

**Kidsafe NSW** - <http://www.kidsafensw.org/water-safety/>

**Kidsafe NSW** - [http://www.kidsafensw.org/imagesDB/wysiwyg/SwimmingPoolSafetyKL2009\\_2.pdf](http://www.kidsafensw.org/imagesDB/wysiwyg/SwimmingPoolSafetyKL2009_2.pdf)

**Kids Health** - [http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid\\_safe/outdoor/water\\_safety.html](http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/outdoor/water_safety.html)

**National Quality Framework (NQF)** - <http://acecqa.gov.au/national-quality-framework/>

#### **NSW Government Fair Trading – Pool Fencing Requirements**

[http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/ftw/Consumers/Product\\_and\\_service\\_safety/Pool\\_safety/Pool\\_fencing\\_requirements.page](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/ftw/Consumers/Product_and_service_safety/Pool_safety/Pool_fencing_requirements.page)

### *Related Telephone Numbers*

- Early Childhood Directorate – 1800-619-113
- Kidsafe - 02 9845-0890
- Emergency Services – 000

### Review

Reviewed: **1 May 19**

Date for next review: **1 May 20**