

# Water Safety Policy

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## Introduction

The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. Our children's services have 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.

Whilst water hazards at our services are kept to a minimum, we acknowledge that water troughs, sinks and toilets can all be hazardous for children and diligent supervision is required.

This policy outlines how children's services ensure the safety and supervision of children in and around water.

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## Policy

Children will be supervised at all times in and around any body of water including water troughs, toilets, and any water-based experiences.

A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water.

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 or showering.

Educators are not permitted to consume hot drinks in any area accessible to children.

Grey water systems or water tanks will be labelled with "do not drink" signage and children will be supervised in this area to make sure they are not accessing this water for drinking. Water tanks are secured behind child proof fences and children will not be able to drink from them.

The outdoor learning environment will be checked at the beginning and end of each day for water catchments, puddles or filled containers that could pose a potential risk to children.

In any water-based experiences, Educators will discuss with children that this water is for the purpose of play and not for consumption.

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## Eligibility

This policy applies to all staff. The term staff includes volunteers, students, and contractors.

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## Responsible

Responsibilities for the policy are:

Person	Responsible for
For Approved Provider	Ensuring the service operates in line with the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations 2011.

Nominated Supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring children are adequately supervised and are protected from harms and hazards.</li> <li>• Providing supervision, guidance and advice to staff to ensure adherence to this policy at all times.</li> <li>• Ensuring risk assessments for excursions planned near water identify a high staff to child ratio to ensure adequate supervision.</li> <li>• Ensuring First Aid and CPR qualifications and requirements are met at all times.</li> <li>• Providing families with community messages regarding safe water practices.</li> </ul>
Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embedding water safety messages into the children's education program.</li> <li>• Ensuring water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied or covered securely after use.</li> <li>• Emptying buckets and containers used for cleaning and other purposes immediately after use.</li> <li>• Not leaving cleaning buckets in areas accessible to children.</li> <li>• Providing clean drinking water at all times.</li> </ul>
Families	Reinforcing water safety practice with children.

### Related documents

#### Learning Links Preschool Risk Register

##### Link to National Quality Standards

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

2.1 - Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted.

2.2 - Each child is protected.

Quality Area 3: Physical Environment

3. – The design of the facilities is appropriate for the operation of a service.

Quality Area 7: Leadership and Service Management

7.1.2 – Systems are in place to manage risk and enable the effective management and operation of a quality service.

##### Links to Early Years Learning Framework

3.2 Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing

4.3 Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another

##### Relevant Legislation

Work, Health and Safety Act 2011

National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care 2009

Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011

Part 4.2 Div 1 78 (1)(2)

Part 4.2 Div 6 101 (2) (b) (c) (f)

Part 4.7 Div 2 168 (2) (a) (i) (iii)

Early Years Learning Framework for Australia 2009

Australian Standards for swimming pool safety

##### Resources

Pool and Water Safety: [www.kidsafe.com.au](http://www.kidsafe.com.au)

CELA Sample Policies

**Document control**

This table outlines the control details for this document.

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