

Water Safety Policy

Preschool



Introduction	<p>The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. Our children's service has a responsibility to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of each child at all times.</p> <p>It is important to be aware that children can drown in less than 6 centimetres of water.</p> <p>Whilst water hazards at our service are kept to a minimum, we acknowledge that water troughs, sinks and toilets can be hazardous for children and diligent supervision is required.</p>
Outcome Area	<p>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.</p> <p>Quality Area 3: Physical Environment 3. – The design of the facilities is appropriate for the operation of a service.</p> <p>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.</p>
Eligibility	<p>This Policy applies to all staff employed by Learning Links. The term staff also applies to students, interns, and volunteers. This policy also applies to workers carrying out work on behalf of Learning Links (e.g., contractors).</p>
Policy	<p>This policy outlines how our children's service ensures the safety and supervision of children in and around water.</p> <p>Children will be supervised at all times in and around any body of water including water troughs, toilets, and any water-based experiences.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Educators are not permitted to consume hot drinks in any area accessible to children.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In any water-based experiences, Educators will discuss with children that this water is for the purpose of play and not for consumption.</p>

<p>Legislative Requirements</p>	<p>Section/regulation Description</p> <p>Section 165</p> <p>Section 167</p> <p>Regulation 25(1)(c)</p> <p>Section/regulation Description</p> <p>Regulation 26(1)(l)</p> <p>Regulation 101</p> <p>Section 102C</p> <p>Regulation 115</p> <p>Regulation 116</p> <p>Regulation 168(2)(a)(iii)</p> <p>Regulation 169</p> <p>Regulation 170</p> <p>Regulation 171</p> <p>Regulation 172</p> <p>Regulation 274</p> <p>Regulation 345</p> <p>Authority/Responsibility For</p> <p>Offence to inadequately supervise children</p> <p>Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards</p> <p>Additional information about proposed education and care service premises</p> <p>Authority/Responsibility For</p> <p>Application for service approval – family day care – swimming pool</p> <p>Conduct of risk assessment for excursion</p> <p>Conduct of risk assessment for transporting of children by the education and care service</p> <p>Premises designed to facilitate supervision</p> <p>Assessments of family day care residences and approved family day care venues</p> <p>Education and care services must have policies and procedures on water safety, including safety during any water-based activities</p> <p>Additional policies and procedures – family day care service</p> <p>Policies and procedures to be followed</p> <p>Policies and procedures to be kept available</p> <p>Notification of change to policies or procedures</p> <p>Swimming pools (NSW only)</p> <p>Swimming pool prohibition (Tasmania only)</p>
<p>Key Terms and Meanings</p>	<p><u>ACECQA – Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority</u></p> <p>The independent national authority that works with all regulatory authorities to administer the National Quality Framework, including the provision of guidance, resources and services to support the sector to improve outcomes for children.</p> <p><u>Source:</u> acecqa.gov.au</p> <p><u>Adequate supervision</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An educator can respond immediately, particularly when a child is distressed or in a hazardous situation. • Knowing where children are at all times and monitoring their activities actively and diligently. <p><u>Source:</u> Guide to the NQF (Operational Requirements – Quality Area 2)</p> <p><u>Approved first aid qualifications</u></p> <p>A qualification that includes training in the matters set out below, that relates to and is appropriate to children, and has been approved by ACECQA and published on the list of ACECQA’s approved first aid qualifications and training.</p> <p>Matters are likely to include: Emergency life support and cardio- pulmonary resuscitation; convulsions; poisoning; respiratory difficulties; management of severe bleeding; injury and basic wound care; and administration of an auto-immune adrenalin device.</p> <p><u>Source:</u> National Regulations (Regulation 136)</p> <p><u>Risk Assessment</u></p> <p>A systematic process of evaluating the potential likelihood and consequences of risks that may be involved in a projected activity or undertaking.</p>

<p>Strategies</p>	<p><u>Water Safety</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • Educator-to-child ratios are increased where appropriate around water. • No child should be left unsupervised at any stage around any body of water. • A Learning Experience Plan will be implemented if applicable for any experiences with large bodies of water • Children requiring bathing will be bathed using either warm water, nappy wipes or the preschool children’s shower located in the children’s bathroom. <p><u>Water Hygiene</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey water systems or water tanks are labelled with “do not drink” signage. Children are supervised in this area to make sure they are not accessing this water for drinking. • Educators are required to discuss with the children that this water is for the purpose of play and not for consumption. • Water for pets at the service will be changed regularly at not accessible to children unless supervised by an adult. • Water containers of all types must be emptied or covered when not in use. • Drinking water containers must be emptied and cleaned daily.
<p>Roles and Responsibilities</p>	<p><u>Approved Provider</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the service operates in line with the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations 2011. <p><u>Nominated Supervisor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring children are adequately supervised and are protected from harms and hazards. • Providing supervision, guidance and advice to staff to ensure adherence to this policy at all times. • Ensuring risk assessments for excursions planned near water identify a high staff to child ratio to ensure adequate supervision. • Ensuring First Aid and CPR qualifications and requirements are met at all times. • Providing families with community messages regarding safe water practices. <p><u>Educators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedding water safety messages into the children’s education program. • Ensuring water troughs or containers for water play are emptied or covered securely after use. • Emptying buckets and containers used for cleaning and other purposes immediately after use. • Providing clean drinking water at all times. • Ensure no child is left unattended at any time with any body of water. • Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. Prevent children from drinking grey water. • Provide clean drinking water at all times. <p><u>Families</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforcing water safety practice with children.

<p>Related Legislation, Standards, Documents</p>	<p>Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 Education and Care Services National Regulations: Regulation 168(2)(h)&(a)(iii)</p> <p>Resources Pool and Water Safety: www.kidsafe.com.au</p>
<p>Review</p>	<p>This policy and guidelines will be reviewed every two years and will incorporate current information, legislation and feedback as required.</p> <p>The service will ensure that families of children enrolled at the service are notified at least 14 days before making any change to a policy or procedure that may have significant impact on the provision of education and care to any child enrolled at the service.</p> <p>This policy is owned by: Preschool</p> <p>Policy updated on: 23 August 2023 Policy updated by: Director, Preschool Version number: 2.0 This version approved by: GM, Service Quality, Risk and Compliance This document can be viewed on: Learning Links Intranet, Learning Links Preschool Website, Story Park</p> <p>Policy due for review: 23 August 2025</p>