



Policy No: CE-POL-020/3/2013

Water Safety Policy – This is subject to a DfE controlled procedure

Custodian: Management
Committee

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Version No: 3

Approved By:
Alison Curtis
Chairperson

**On behalf of the Management
Committee.**

Approval Date: 14/12/22

Next Review Date: 14/12/25

Supersedes: Water Safety
Policy version 2

1 Purpose:

To outline the procedures that apply to managing water safety, including safety during any water-based activities

According to Kidsafe (the recognised authority on the prevention of injuries in children), drowning continues to be one of the main causes of fatalities of Australian children. Every year a number of children are killed and hundreds more are rescued from near drowning situations. Non-fatal drowning incidents are also of great concern as they can have potential long-term effects, including brain damage and permanent disability. The most common factor in childhood drowning is lack of supervision.

Knowledge of potential hazards associated with water will assist educators to provide a safe, stimulating environment for children.

2 Scope:

Approved Provider (this service has 2 Approved providers-DfE and the Management Committee)
Nominated Supervisor
Responsible Person on Duty
Educators
Families & Children
Students & Volunteers

3 Supporting Documents:

[Incident, Illness, Trauma & Injury Policy](#)

[Supervision of Children policy](#)

[DfE Preschool Water Safety Procedure](#)

DfE Risk Management Policy and Framework

Excursions Risk Management form

Safety Inspection Checklist – GROUNDS

4 Policy Details:

Children need opportunities to develop their understanding of the natural environment. Experiences with water encourage active exploration and discovery of the environment.

Children's safety and wellbeing will be protected in and around water through supervision and education.

Children must be actively supervised at all times when having access to any water hazards. When children are taken on an excursion to swim or where there is a significant water hazard, educators are to conduct a risk assessment prior to the excursion.

4.1 Water hazards

A water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth.

water hazards in children's learning environments include:

- sinks, basins, fish tanks, baths
- swimming pools, portable pools, spas
- water courses, ponds, sandpits, clam shells
- water troughs, containers and buckets used for play, animal drinking containers
- pooling water.

Premises adjacent to or providing access to, any water hazards that are not able to be adequately supervised at all times (e.g. dams, swimming pool) are to be isolated from children by a child resistant barrier or fence.

5 Procedures:

Managing water hazards

Site leaders are required to complete risk assessments that identify and assess risks associated with any water hazards and water-based activities. Risk assessments must address:

- Active supervision – children must be actively supervised at all times when there is a risk of access to any water hazard. Active supervision includes:
 - direct and constant monitoring of children – within arm's length (within 1-2 metres)
 - careful and intentional positioning
 - scanning and moving around the environment
 - listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
 - observing play and anticipating behaviour
 - higher adult/child ratios.
- Eliminating hazards – water play troughs and containers must be emptied immediately after use, and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use.
- ensuring water containers are safely covered or inaccessible to children in the education and care setting/service e.g. Fish tank
- the fish pond near the entrance to the Centre is covered with a rigid metal barrier to prevent children from accessing the water.]

- Daily yard checks are conducted prior to children accessing the outdoor play space. Checks include ensuring there are no standing pools of water or containers that may have filled overnight
- Risk assessments are conducted for all water related activities including prior to excursions.

6 Related Legislation and Regulations

Education and Early Childhood Services (Registration and Standards) Act 2011, Schedule 1

Education and Care Services National Law (South Australia)

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Reg 100	Risk assessment must be conducted for excursion
Reg 101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursion
Reg 168	Policies and procedures are required in relation to water safety, including safety during any water-based activities or excursions
Reg 170	Policies and procedures to be followed.

7 Definitions of Terms:

Active supervision That an educator can respond immediately, particularly when a child is distressed or in a hazardous situation. In addition, knowing where all children are at all times, and monitoring their activities actively and diligently.

DfE Department for Education

Hazard A hazard is an object, situation or behaviour that has the potential to cause physical or psychological harm or injury. A water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth.

Risk Assessment The overall process of risk identification, risk analysis and risk evaluation.

Water Hazard Anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth.

8 References:

Kidsafe and SA Department for Education 2018, "Water safety in education and care settings",

ACECQA, 2021, Water safety policy guidelines, accessed online (14/10/22) at url: <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/resources/preparing-nqf-policies-and-procedures>

9 Reviewing Strategy and History:

Review should be conducted every 3 years (in line with DfE timeframe) to ensure compliance with this procedure

Version No.	Reviewed By	Approved By	Approval Date	Review Notes
1	Management Committee Staff	Liam Fudali-Chairperson	22/5/13	New format
1.1	Management Committee Staff DECD	Lyn Rowberry-Chairperson	20/5/15	Updated referencing
2	Management Committee Staff	Melissa Smithen Chairperson	16/10/19	Inserted section 6 Legislation& Regulations Content changes to align with DfE procedure Updated referencing and review history
3	Management Committee Staff parents	Alison Curtis Chairperson	14/12/22	Content changes to Purpose; Procedures; Definitions Updated referencing and review history