

Water Safety Policy

2017 / 2018

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| Date: | 25 Oct 2017 |
| Version: | 1. |
| Last Amended By: | Susan Wilkinson |
| Next Review: | Oct 2018 |
| Position: | Nominated Supervisor / Director / Teacher / Administration |

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.

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

For Approved Provider

- Ensure the service operates in line with the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations 2011.

For 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

For Educators

- 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

For Children

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

For Families

- Reinforce water safety practice with children

Definitions, Terms & Abbreviations

Term means

CPR Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Related Regulations, Quality Standards and National Laws

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| Regulation 168 (2) (h) | Providing a Child Safe Environment |
| Regulation 168 (2) (a) iii | Water Safety |

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| NQS 2.2 | Each child is protected |
| NQS 2.3.2 | Children are adequately supervised at all times |
| NQS 2.3.3 | Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury |
| NQS 3.1 | The physical environment is safe and suitable |

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| National Law 167 | Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards |
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Related Statutory Obligations & Considerations

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA)

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

Children (Education and Care Services National 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 (Children (Education and Care Services))

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

Kidsafe NSW - http://www.kidsafensw.org/imagesDB/wysiwyg/SwimmingPoolSafetyKL2009_2.pdf

Kids Health - 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

Related Telephone Numbers

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

Amendment History

| Version | Amendment | Short Description |
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| Ver No.1 | n/a | n/a |

Edgeworth Child Care Centre Inc.