

3.13 Water Activities and Safety Policy

The service acknowledges that water activities are a significant part of our Queensland culture therefore we aim to provide children with experiences that are safe and fun. The service recognises that the safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority therefore children will be closely supervised during water play experiences. The scope of this policy includes swimming activities, water play, excursions near water, hot water and drinking water within the service environment.



Relevant Laws and other Provisions

The laws and other provisions affecting this policy include:

- Education and Care Services National Law Act, 2010 and Regulations 2011
- Family and Child Guardian Act 2014
- Duty of care
- *National Quality Standard 2.2 Each child is protected*
- Policies: 2.3 – Educator Ratios, 2.2 – Statement of Commitment to the Safety and Wellbeing of Children and the Protection of Children from Harm, 2.11 – Including Children with Special/Additional Needs, 3.1 – Educational Program Planning, 3.3 – Educator Practices, 3.5 – Excursions, 3.7 – Physical Activity, 4.8 – Sun Safety, 9.3 – Communication with Families, 10.9 – Risk Management and Compliance.



Procedures

The Nominated Supervisor/Coordinator/Responsible Person will:

- Provide information and guidance to educators and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water;
- Ensure work, health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and associated play activities;
- Ensure clean drinking water is always available; and
- Conduct a comprehensive risk assessment prior to any water activities taking place. The risk assessment shall identify the educator to child ratios required to ensure children's safety.

Educators will:

- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied onto garden areas after use;
- Buckets of water used for cleaning are emptied immediately after use. Buckets are not to be left in play areas or accessible to children unless they are being used as part of a program experience; and
- Encourage children to play in or near water safely, giving appropriate instructions and guidance.

If grey water systems and/or water tanks are located within the service environment they will be labelled with 'do not drink' signage to ensure children are not accessing this water for drinking or hand washing.

Hot water accessible at the service premises will be maintained at a temperature of 43.5°C or less.

Water for pets at the service must be changed regularly and only accessible to children when educators are present.

Swimming Activities

All bodies of water present a significant risk to children therefore the service will ensure the following procedures are implemented:

- A comprehensive risk assessment (3.13.1) of the venue and activity will be conducted to determine the required educator to child ratio. Consideration will also be given to the capacity of educators to rescue children from water;
- Parents/guardians must complete a 'Swimming Ability Form' (3.13.2) for each child attending the activity. Information gained through this form will identify children's swimming competence and assist educators to manage their safety while in the water;
- Educators will be positioned both in and out of the water to allow them to supervise any child accessing the water directly and actively; and
- At least one educator with a current first-aid qualification and CPR qualification, anaphylaxis management and emergency asthma management training as required by the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*, is in attendance and immediately available in an emergency.

Services located on a site with a swimming pool

In addition to the abovementioned points, the service will undertake the following if there is a swimming pool located within the school premises where the Service Approval has been obtained:

- Detail the terms of use of the swimming pool in the occupancy agreement negotiated with the school Principal;
- Manage authorisation's (permissions) to use the swimming pool as a **regular outing**.

DATE DEVELOPED	DATE RATIFIED	DATE REVIEWED	DATE RATIFIED
August 2018	August 2018	September 2021	September 2021
		June 2022	August 2022