

Water Safety Policy

Published	May 2018
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Sources	Education and Care Services National Regulations, October 2017 Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations, October 2017 Guide to the National Quality Standard, February 2018 NSW Kid Safe Water Safety Factsheet

Aim:

To ensure all Educators, Co-ordination Unit staff and parents are informed of the procedures required by Country Children's Early Learning in relation to experiences involving water, and excursions where there is a significant water hazard.

Explanation:

Country Children's Early Learning acknowledges the importance of safe practices around water, as water hazards and pools are a high risk to children's safety. When near water, supervision of the children is paramount and the adult to child ratio must be maintained to reduce risks.

Water areas are popular with the public, particularly in hot weather, making it difficult to maintain close supervision of children in the crowd; therefore strict procedures have been set to ensure the safety of the children in Family Day Care.

Conduct and ratios for Excursions:

- Children with the service are taken on an excursion to swim for the purpose only of learning water safety or learning to swim, and when children are taken on such an excursion, the minimum adult to child ratio of participants in the excursion is one adult for each child
- Children taken on any excursion to a beach, river, lake or other place where there is a significant water hazard (other than for the purpose of learning water safety or learning to swim – as stated above), the minimum adult to child ratio of persons participating in the excursion is:
 - one adult for each child under 3 years of age, *and*
 - one adult for each 2 children 3 or more years of age but who do not normally attend school, and
 - one adult for each 5 children who normally attend school
- A Family Day Educator or home based licensee must ensure that the person in charge on any excursion to a beach, river or lake or other place where there is a significant water hazard has a current approved first aid qualification and the knowledge and ability to implement water safety procedures

Responsibilities:

In relation to the Co-ordination Unit Staff and Educators:

- Abide by their obligations under the current Education and Care Services National Regulations and the National Quality Standard in relation to water safety
- Keep up to date with information regarding water safety
- Provide information for parents on water safety
- Be aware of water sources around the service and take action to prevent access to these areas, including: buckets, nappy pails, baths, wading pools, swimming pools, spas, ponds

- Conduct an Excursion Risk Management Plan in accordance with the Excursion Policy for any excursions that may involve water hazards
- Any excursion where there is a significant water hazard will not be regarded as a regular outing and will require a pre-excursion visit by the Responsible Person prior to authorisation being given for the excursion to go ahead
- Wading pools, sprinklers and soaker hoses may be used if children are constantly in the sight of the Educator at all times
- On the completion of play with wading pools, sprinklers and soaker hoses they must be immediately emptied and put away

In relation to Swimming Pools:

- No child is to swim in a swimming pool at the Educators home unless the Co-ordination Unit has written authorisation for the child to do so from a parent of the child *AND* the adult to child ratios are maintained
- Any swimming pool at the Educators home must be fenced to the standard to which a new swimming pool would be required to be fenced under the *Swimming Pool Act 1992*
- Educators with swimming pools are required to provide Country Children's Early Learning with a Certificate of Inspection by an Authorised Body annually
- Approved Educators with Country Children's Early Learning are not to take children to public swimming pools, even if the adult to child ratios are maintained

Continual Monitoring and Improvement:

Continual improvement and monitoring will occur in the following ways:

- Incidental and planned consultation with families
- Co-ordination Unit Staff accessing current relevant information
- Co-ordination Unit Staff and Educators accessing current and relevant training
- Internal evaluation of incidences and the improvement of systems

Policy Review

Date Revised	Comments
Jan 2011	Added clause 79(5) from Regulations 2004, and AS site visit for excursions
Jan 2012	Responsibilities for Educators: added relevant regulations and quality standards in relation to new Education and Care Services National Regulations and National Quality Standard
December 2012	Educators with swimming pools to provide CCEL with a Certificate of Inspection annually
January 2013	Added information for In Home Care
April 2013	Scheduled Policy Review, no changes made
October 2014	Scheduled Policy Review, no changes made
April 2015	Added changes to ensure meets current regulations
April 2016	Scheduled Policy Review – No changes made
June 2018	Updated references to current National Regulations/ Law and Standards