

GUIDING PRINCIPAL WATER SAFETY

QUALITY AREA 1: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND PRACTICE
QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

Introduction:

- *Our service* will plan experiences with appropriate levels of challenge where children will be encouraged to explore, experiment and take appropriate risks ("My Time, Our Place", Outcome 4), including the use of water as a medium for play in both the outdoor and indoor environment and on excursions.
- Water use will be supervised at all times to ensure the safety of children is a priority. The hygienic state of water will be assessed before it is used for children's play. Drinking water will be accessible, hygienically stored and maintained.
- The safety and supervision of children is paramount when in or around water. This relates to water play, excursions near or at bodies of water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the service environment.

Governance:

- All educators (whether casual, part time or full time) are subject to the policies and procedures in governing PCYC- Out of School Hours.

Definition:

- Educators: Staff who hold qualifications in Children Services
- Staff: Staff who don't hold any qualifications in Children Services

Policy

Water Safety in Relation to Excursions:

The service recognises the risks posed by bodies of water and will ensure that every precaution is taken so that children are able to enjoy water-based excursions safely. Risk assessments will be carried out for all water-based excursions, please refer to the service's Excursion Policy.

Authorisation from families will be sought prior to excursions including those involving water based activities.

The National Law and Regulations do not specify a specific educator to child ratio for activities where water is a feature. The number of educators present is to be determined by a risk assessment of the proposed activity. It must also be noted that in sections 165, 167 and 169 of the National Law there are clear statements about adequate supervision. A range of factors shall determine the adequacy of supervision, including:

- Numbers, ages and abilities of the children
- Number and positioning of educators
- Each child's current activities
- Areas where children are playing, in particular the visibility and accessibility of these areas
- Risks in the environment and experiences provided to children
- Educators' knowledge of each child and each group of children,
- The experience, knowledge and skill of each educator.

Ratios:

- Water Ratios- 1 Staff members to 5 Children
- Water ratios will need to be adhered to when the water level is larger than 5cm

Definition of a Body of Water:

The service recognises the following locations as bodies of water:

- Swimming pools and /or water fun parks
- Wading pools
- Lakes
- Ponds

- The sea / ocean
- Creeks
- Dams
- Rivers
- Equipment used by the service that could contain 5cm or more of water and would allow a child to submerge both nose and mouth at the same time.

Water safety in relation to water-based activities within the service:

- 1:5 ratio will be followed while water based activities are being run
- Water use within the service will be supervised to ensure that the safety of children, and educators is a priority. The hygienic state of water will be assessed before it is used for children's play.
- At the completion of the activity the water containers will be emptied and the containers turned upside down or packed away. Educators will ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water vessels.
- Children will be instructed in the safe use of equipment used during water-based activities, for example, slip and slide, water pistols, bubble machines, etc.
- Any buckets of water that may be used for cleaning or hand washing will not be left unsupervised near the children and will be emptied immediately after use
- The children's play areas will be checked each morning to ensure that no containers or pools of water are accessible to children. If rain occurs during the day, outdoor play areas will be checked for safety prior to the children entering the outdoor environment.

Date Approved: March 2018

Review Date: March 2020

Documents Considered:

Education and Care Services National Law 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2010 and 2014 Update (99,100,101,102,103,168)

National Quality Standard (Standard 2.3)

My Time, Our Place

Work, Health and Safety ACT 2011

Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy

Excursion Policy

Australia Water Safety Council