

WATER SAFETY

POLICY

The highest level of safety must be maintained at all times in relation to water safety and water-based activities.

PROCEDURE

All swimming pools at the family day care educator's residence and/or venue must comply with the Australian Standards and State regulations for pool fencing and gates. Any items around the perimeter of the pool (e.g. tables, chairs) must be situated to prevent a child using them as climbing aids. Pool filters and equipment must be inaccessible to children.

At monthly visits Co ordinators will fill out a monthly report for pools and all water hazards. Co ordinators will do this virtually if a monthly visit was not conducted. Educator's that have a pool will complete a Daily water safety checklist template.

No child will enter into the area of a spa, or a private or public swimming pool whilst in the family day care service is operating and children are in care. At all times whilst family day care is operating, the spa and/or swimming pool on the premises will not be used unless Educator has spoken to the Co ordination unit and risks are discussed.

All children near water will be closely supervised, and no child will be left alone near water. The water safety skills of children do not replace adult supervision.

Any containers that holds or collects water, such as nappy buckets, ponds, spas must be safely covered or made inaccessible to children.

All children's play areas that contain water hazards such as dams, drains, creeks, lakes will be fenced off to make inaccessible to children.

All fish ponds or similar water features that collect or fill with water on the family day care premises shall be securely covered with weld mesh which will meet all the following requirements:

- Support the weight of an adult;
- At all times, be above and remain above the level of the water; and
- Be fixed in place.

Wading pools and other containers used for water-based activities must be emptied and cleaned immediately after use and stored to prevent collection of water. Educators must be within arms' reach of children when engaging in water activities. Fill the pool with a small amount of water only.

As part of preparation for a water-based activity, Educators may discuss with children water safety, including what to do if they get into difficulties while in the water.

Appropriate risk assessments must be developed for water safety and any water-based activities; including any excursions that may have water safety risks (e.g. the beach and wading pools).

Proper sun safety procedures will be followed when engaging in water-based activities in the outdoor environment.

RELEVANT LAWS, SOURCES AND OTHER PROVISIONS:

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

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