

# Child Safe Environment: Water Safety

Policy/Procedure Number: C 1

Policy/Procedure Requirement: National Quality Standards 2 & 7; Regulations 168

## Policy Statement

Safe practices around water are critically important to prevent child accidents. Water hazards, water based activities, pools and spas are a high risk to children's safety. Close supervision of children, education, and compliance with State regulations are paramount to ensure their safety.

## Rationale

All Educators, Coordination Unit Staff and families should be informed of the procedures in relation to experiences involving water and excursions where there is a water hazard.

## Strategies and Practices

The FDC Service will not approve FDC residences with swimming pools for Educators with no prior experience as an FDC Educator until 30 June 2017 to minimise risks to its operations. For an FDC Educator who is currently working with, or have until recently been working with a FDC service, and had their residence with swimming pool approved by that service, would be considered for approval subject to them meeting the safety requirements. The Service will review its position prior to the end of June 2017.

### The Coordination Unit Staff will:

- Ensure that Educators are aware of their responsibilities in regards to water safety
- Provide water safety information to Educators and families
- Ensure a risk assessment is completed for all FDC planned events and excursions
- Monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- Keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- Revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required

### Educators will:

- **Closely supervise children in and around water** and be alert to potential risks in everyday practice in the learning environment, including excursions to parks, sanctuaries, the beach, river, pool and ponds
- **Never leave children alone near any water.** Drowning is a leading cause of death for children, with infants and toddlers most at risk
- Consider water hazards and risks associated with water-based activities in a risk assessment prior to conducting excursions

- Be aware that small bodies of water, including nappy buckets, water containers, pet water bowls and poor drainage which allows water to collect can also present drowning hazards for young children. **Children can drown in as little as a few centimetres of water**
- Keep nappy buckets inaccessible to children and check garden after rain or watering and empty water that has collected in holes or containers
- **Keep bathroom and toilet doors closed** or supervise children when using the bathroom
- Not directly supervise their own children for swimming activities whilst still responsible for the supervision of children enrolled with Family Day Care Service

## **Day-to-Day Service Management of Health and Safety Policies**

- Reviewed quarterly and as required

## **Resources and Further Readings**

- Education and Care Services National Regulations
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- ACECQA National; Quality Framework Resource Kit [www.acecqa.gov.au](http://www.acecqa.gov.au)
- Childcare Service Handbook 2013-2014

## **Related FDC Policies, Procedures & Documents**

- Administration of First Aid
- Child Safe Environment: Excursions and Regular Outings
- Excursion Risk Assessment
- Health & Safety: Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness

Created: May 2015  
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