

Water Safety

Policy/Procedure Number: **QA2 - 10**

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, Coordinators 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 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.

(Assessment to be based on the physical safety measures (fence, gates) and the experience & track record of educator – include in assessment of fdc residences as well)

Responsibilities of the Coordinators:

The Coordinators 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

Responsibilities of the Educators:

The 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 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

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

Related FDC Policies, Procedures & Documents

- Administration of First Aid
- Excursions and Regular Outings
- Excursion Risk Assessment
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness

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Next Review: