

SWISH Education

Background

Children's access to clean water for drinking and for washing their hands is important for their health and wellbeing. In addition, access to water play affords children the opportunity for open-ended, exploratory and sensory play which contributes to their development and learning. It also develops environmental awareness.

However, children can drown in as little as 5cm of water. Accordingly, their access to water requires effective management and the highest level of supervision.

Policy statement

This Policy outlines the Service's approach to water safety so that children remain unharmed and healthy and applies at the Service and during excursions. Safety and supervision of children are the highest priority when children have access to water. The Policy covers hot water, drinking water, hygiene practices with water, and water play. It also includes safe storage of equipment used for water play.

Strategies and practices

- At enrolment, the Service's *Water Safety Policy* is provided to parents.
- Children are closely supervised at all times they are involved in water play or are near water. They are never left alone near water.
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) posters are displayed at the Service.
- Educators intentionally teach children about staying safe in and around water when water activities are used.
- Children have ready access to clean drinking water at all times, and are regularly offered water throughout the day.
- Children are discouraged from drinking any water used in the play activities.
- All water play equipment is emptied and hygienically cleaned at the end of each water play activity, allowed to dry thoroughly to prevent the build-up of potentially harmful bacteria such as mould, and then stored in an area inaccessible to children.
- Buckets used for cleaning are kept out of children's reach, emptied immediately after each use and stored in an area inaccessible to children.
- The Nominated Supervisor completes an Excursion Risk Management Plan prior to every excursion. As part of the risk assessment, particular attention is focused upon water safety whenever the excursion is near a body of water, and upon supervision implications.

Water Safety

- Parents are asked to provide a spare set of clothing for their child in the event that the child engages in water play and becomes uncomfortably wet.
- Water conservation is embedded in the Service's practices
 - only the amount of water required to undertake programmed water play is used
 - water used in water play is emptied onto gardens
 - water play is discontinued during water restrictions, and the reasons explained to the children
 - educators encourage children to turn taps off to avoid wastage
 - water conservation posters are displayed in bathrooms.
- Educators model and intentionally teach children water conservation, and provide parents with information to continue the Service's conservation message at home. Refer to the Service's *Environmental Sustainability Policy*.
- Children do not wade or swim while at the Service.
- Adults consume hot drinks in areas not accessed by children, including excursions.

Responsibilities of parents

- To provide a spare set of clothing for their child in the event that the child engages in water play and becomes uncomfortably wet.
- To continue the Service's water conservation message at home.

Procedures and forms

- Excursion Risk Management

Links to other policies

- Animal Policy
- Enrolment and Orientation Policy
- Educational Program Policy
- Environmental Sustainability Policy
- Excursion Policy
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
- Supervision Policy

Links Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, National Quality Standard 2011

Regs	25	Additional information about proposed education and care service premises
	100	Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion
	101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursion
	168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures

QA	2.1.1	Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's need for sleep, rest and relaxation
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Water Safety

2.1.2	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented
2.2.1	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard
3.1.1	Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child
3.1.2	Premises, furniture and equipment are safe, clean and well maintained
3.2.1	Outdoor and indoor spaces are organised and adapted to support every child's participation and to engage every child in quality experiences in both built and natural environments
3.2.2	Resources, materials and equipment allow for multiple uses, are sufficient in number, and enable every child to engage in play-based learning
3.2.3	The service cares for the environment and supports children to become environmentally responsible
6.1.1	Families are supported from enrolment to be involved in the service and contribute to service decisions
6.1.3	Current information is available to families about the service and relevant community services and resources to support parenting and family wellbeing
7.2.3	Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, and understood, and support effective decision-making and operation of the service

Sources

- Community Childcare Cooperative. (2010). *Water safety: Sample policy* <http://www.cscentral.org.au/Resources/water-safety.pdf> accessed 5 February 2016
- Early Years Learning Framework 2009
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Guide to the National Quality Standard 2011

Further reading and useful websites

- Kidsafe – <http://www.kidsafe.com.au/> accessed 23 December 2017
- Kids Alive. *Kids alive do the five.* <http://www.kidsalive.com.au/> accessed 23 December 2017
- Living Thing – <https://www.livingthing.net.au/> accessed 23 December 2017
- National Health and Medical Research Council – <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/> accessed 23 December 2017
- Tansey, S. (2007). *Safety in Children's Services.* http://ncac.acecqa.gov.au/educator-resources/factsheets/qias_factsheet_%202.pdf accessed 23 December 2017

Policy review

The Service encourages staff and parents to be involved in the annual review of each of its policies and procedures. In addition, the Service will accommodate any new legislative changes as they occur and any issues identified as part the Service's commitment to quality improvement. The Service consults with relevant recognised authorities as part of the annual review to ensure the policy contents are consistent with current research and contemporary views on best practice.

Version Control

Version	Date Reviewed	Approved By	Comments/Amendments	Next Review Date
1	8 January 2018	Dr Brenda Abbey (Author)	Updated to changed NQF requirements 1 February 2018. Service to modify policies to its specific needs.	
2	2 May 2018	Rebecca Evans	Updated to support SWISH Procedures	2 May 2019

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