



Water Safety Policy

National Quality Standards:

Area 2 - Children's health and safety

Standard 2.2 - Safety: Each child is protected

Elements:

2.1.2 - Health practices and procedures

Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.

2.2.1 - Supervision

At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard

2.2.2 - Incident and emergency management

Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented

Children (Education and Care Services) National Regulations (2011 SI 653):

Reg. 101	Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion
Reg. 115	Premises designed to facilitate supervision
Reg. 122	Educators must be working directly with children to be included in ratios
s 168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures

Related Policies:

- Administration of First Aid
- Child Protection
- Dealing with Medical Conditions/Medical Administration
- Excursions Policy
- Extra Curricular Activities
- Governance, Management and Record Keeping
- Incident, Illness, Trauma and Accident
- Providing a Child Safe Environment



Policy Statement:

The safety and supervision of children is of extreme importance when in or around water, for example during water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water, and hygiene practices involving water in the Service. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences and excursions. The hygienic state of water will be assessed before it is used for children's play.

Adventure OSHC 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.

Definition of a body 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.

Purpose:

To ensure the safety and supervision of children in and around water. This includes water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the Service.

Scope:

This Policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the Service.



Implementation:

Management/Nominated Supervisor/Responsible Person will:

- Provide direction and education to Educators, staff and families regarding the importance of children's safety and supervision in and around water.
- Ensure health and safety practices fully incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and water play.
- Ensure premises adjacent to, or providing access to, any water hazards that are not able to be adequately supervised at all times (e.g. ponds, swimming pools, dams, beaches) are to be isolated from children by a child resistant barrier or fence. In the event that this cannot occur, adequate and stringent supervision and rules will be in place for excursions to these places, e.g. beaches.
- Conduct a risk assessment in accordance with the requirements prior to taking children on an excursion which contains or may contain water.
- Ensure all Educators hold current approved First Aid qualifications.
- Display a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) guide near any water or areas which may contain water.
- Ensure water hazards are always supervised.
- Ensure hot water is completely inaccessible to children.

Parents will be notified as soon as practicable (however, within 24 hours) if their child is involved in an incident/accident at the Service or whilst under Service care. Details of the incident/accident will be recorded on an *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record*.

If the incident/accident/situation/event presents imminent or severe risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of the child, or if an ambulance was called in response to an emergency (not as a precaution), the Regulatory Authority will be notified within 24 hours.

Educators will:

- Supervise children near water at all times.
- Never leave children alone near any water.
- Ensure fish/frog ponds and water features that are not able to be adequately supervised at all times and/pr pose an unacceptable risk to children, are guarded or effective barriers put in place.
- Complete a daily Safety Check of premises to ensure that all hazards are known and minimised. Educators will minimise all hazards and risks when conducting this



assessment prior to the arrival of children. When a hazard or potential hazard is detected, Educators will complete a risk assessment to address any concerns and will then remove the hazard.

- Utilise water activities in appropriate weather only, and safely at all times.
- Allow the children the opportunity to experiment with water, sand and mixing materials. provide a place for boats and floating objects to be used with other water play equipment.
- Ensure buckets of water for soaking toys or clothing are inaccessible to children.
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied into the garden areas after use.
- Children will be discouraged from drinking water used in water activities.
- Monitor the tap and turn off the tap securely when not in use.
- Encourage children to use water effectively and learn new ways to save and reuse water.
- Children have safe, independent access to clean and cool drinking water at all times.
- Ensure children do not have access to staff only areas - laundries, storerooms and kitchens.
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water.
- Ensure wading/water troughs are hygienically cleaned, disinfected and chlorinated appropriately:
 - On a daily basis- remove leaves and debris, hose away surface dirt and scrub inside with disinfectant.
 - Wash away disinfectant before filling the pool/trough.
 - Children with diarrhoea, upset stomachs, open sores, or nasal infections should not swim in pools during excursions.
 - All children should wear appropriate bathers, go to the toilet before entering the pool, and follow correct toileting hygiene practices whilst in the pool area.
 - Remove all children immediately should a child pass a bowel motion whilst in the pool.

Operational Safety:

- Water tanks and containers containing water will be labelled with 'Do Not Drink' signage and the children will be supervised in areas with water tanks and containers to make sure they are not accessing this water for drinking.
- Hot water that is accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5 degrees Celsius, which will be tested daily.



- Water for pets at the Service must be changed daily and only accessible to children when Educators are present.

Sources:

- Australian Children’s Education & Care Authority
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law
- Education and Care Services National Regulations (2011 SI 653)
- National Quality Standards
- National Health and Medication Research Council - <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/>
- NSW Department of Health - <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/>

Version control created	13 March 2021
Reviewed	11 March 2022 - No changes
Reviewed	1 February 2023 - Minor changes (format, business name change)
Reviewed	11 September 2023 - Minor changes (formatting), related policies added
Next review	September 2024