

POOL AND WATER SAFETY

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

Standard 2.3: Each child is protected

Regulation 168 (2)(a) Policies and procedures are required in relation to health and safety, including matters relating to: (iii) water safety, including safety during any water based activities

PURPOSE To ensure the safety and supervision of children in and around water at all times. This includes water play, excursions near water, hot water, bathing and water in and near the service environment.

POLICY The service will provide and promote a safe education and care environment for all children, educators and staff.

PROCEDURE

LAWS AND ACTS

Swimming Pool Regulation 2008 under Swimming Pools Act 1992

The Swimming Pool (Amendment) Act Regulation 2012.

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

PROCEDURES

A risk assessment is conducted prior to educator registration, and annually which will include assessing the risks of pools, spas, inflatable pools, water features or water hazards on or near the residence.

Any educator who has a swimming pool, spa, or inflatable pool capable of being filled to the depth of 300 mm or more is required to adhere to pool fencing, spa legislative requirements

Educators must provide:

- a copy of a compliance certificate for the pool / spa from the local council or a certified company in relation to pools and spas, which is renewed every 3 years
- a copy of proof their pool is on the NSW Swimming Pool Register under The Swimming Pool (Amendment) Act Regulation 2012

Family day care educators keep strict hazard assessments of pool fences and gates to ensure that they are maintained in good working order; pool gates are key locked at all times whilst

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family day care is operating; keys need to be readily accessible to an adult in the event that a child enters the pool area by other means

Family day care educators ensure no climbing aids are present or placed against pool fencing to aid children gaining access to a swimming pool; pool filters are made inaccessible to children; CPR chart is clearly visible in the pool area and pool chemicals must be inaccessible to children

Family day care children are not permitted to swim in a family day care educator's pool whilst the educator is providing an education and care service

Wading / paddling Pools and water play at educator education and care service and venues

A wading pool is defined as a body of water that is **emptied after each use** and does not have the capacity to store more than 300 mm

when a wading / paddling pool is not emptied after each use, it will be deemed to be a swimming pool and it can not be used unless compliance with the pool requirements (refer to section 1 in this policy)

Empty wading pools are stored to prevent the collection of water, e.g. upright, also check garden after rain or watering and empty water that has collected in holes or containers

Wading / paddling pools are used with constant active educator supervision

Family day care educator will ensure wading / paddling pool water is clean and hygienic at all times

Family day care educators are to promote sun safety when playing outdoors

Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied into the garden areas after use.

Excursions

Family day care educators must conduct a risk assessment prior to every excursion. If an excursion is located in the vicinity of a water hazard; consideration to conduct an excursion would be based on the risk assessment completed by the educator and discussed with the Nominated Supervisor

Hot Water

If the hot water of an education and care service is not regulated to 50 degrees C or below, all hot water taps must be inaccessible to the children.

Family day care educators will ensure that any cups of hot liquid are not accessible to children

The hot water service will be guarded or located in an area inaccessible to children

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Baths

The jets of the spa bath must not be turned on if being used to bath a child

All plugs must be inaccessible to children when the bath is not in use.

Body's of water

Ensure all fish / frog ponds and water features are securely guarded at all times with a safe and appropriate barrier / lid etc to prevent access by the children

If any bodies of water ie —(rivers/dams/creeks/culverts/lakes/causeways/water fountains/ponds) outside of the care environment are accessible during arrival or departure then parents/ guardians will be made aware of their responsibility for adequate supervision and care.

Education

Encourage children to use water effectively and along with staff learn new ways to save and re-use water

Allow the children the opportunity to experiment with water, sand and mixing materials plus a place for boats & floating objects to be used with other water play equipment

Teach children about staying safe in and around water

Drinking water

Children have safe independent access to clean and cool drinking water at all times

Ensure water bottles, containers etc are cleaned regularly

Source and considerations:

- National Quality Standards
- Education and care Services Regulations 2011
- Education and Care Services Law Act 2011
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Pools Regulation 2008 under Swimming Pools Act 1992 amendment 2012
- Kidsafe website
- Local council website—swimming pools

Associated Forms/information:

- Initial and final inspection document
- Excursion risk assessment forms
- Educator compliance folder

Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action or termination of employment or registration as an educator