

Policy 3

Water Safety Policy

Policy Statement

Wideview Outside School Hours Care Service recognises the benefits gained by children engaging in safe water play activities WOOSHC 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. 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.

Links to Education and Care Services National Regulations and National Quality Standard

QUALITY AREA		
2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort	Each child's health needs are supported
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazards
3.1.1	Fit for purpose	Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, furniture, equipment, facilities, and resources are suitable for their purpose
3.1.2	Upkeep	Premises, furniture, and equipment are safe, clean, and well maintained
3.2.1	Inclusive environment	Outdoor and indoor spaces are designed and organised to engage every child in quality experiences in both built and natural environments
3.2.2	Resources support play-based learning	Resources, materials, and equipment are sufficient in number, organised in ways that ensure appropriate and effective implementation of the program and allow for multiple uses
3.2.3	Environmentally responsible	The service cares for the environment and supports children to become environmentally responsible
6.1.1	Engagement with the service	Families are supported form enrolment to be involved in the service and contribute to service decisions
6.1.3	Families are supported	Current information about the Service is available for families
7.2.3	Development of professionals	The performance of educators, co-ordinators and staff members is evaluated, and individual development plans are in place to support performance improvement

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
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

Procedure

1. Water safety in relation to water-based activities within the service

- 1.1 Educators intentionally teach children about staying safe in and around water. Children will be instructed in the safe use of equipment used during water-based activities, for example, slip and slide, water pistols, bubble machines, etc.
- 1.2 All water troughs and containers are emptied 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 appropriately.

- 1.3 The children's play areas will be checked each morning to ensure that no containers or pools of water are accessible to children. If rain occurs during the day, outdoor play areas will be checked for safety prior to the children entering the outdoor environment.
- 1.4 Water conservation is embedded in the Service's practices, i.e., washing up and washing hands before eating. Any water-based activities should be undertaken on grassed areas, when possible, to minimise wasted water.
- 1.5 Water restrictions will be taken into consideration when planning and programming water-based activities.
- 1.6 Only the amount of water required for undertaking programmed water play is used and water play is supervised at all times. Water used in water play is emptied onto gardens.
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) posters are displayed prominently throughout the Service. All staff hold a current first aid and update CPR regularly.

2. Water Safety in relation to excursions

- 2.1 The service recognises the risks posed by bodies of water. The service will ensure that every precaution is taken so that children are able to enjoy water-based activities safely.
- 2.2 Excursion Risk Management Plans are completed prior to every excursion. As part of the risk assessment, particular attention is focused upon water hazards and requirements for first aid and water safety.
- 2.3 Whilst the Regulations do not specify a specific educator to child ratio for activities where water is a feature, A ratio of 1:5 (1 educator to 5 children) is recommended for excursions where children are swimming and entering the water, whenever the excursion is near a body of water, the recommendation is 1:8 Ratios (1 educator to 8 children) It must also be noted that in sections 165, 167 and 169 of the National Law there are clear statements about adequate supervision. A range of factors shall determine the adequacy of supervision, including:
 - Numbers, ages, and abilities of the children
 - Number and positioning of educators
 - Each child's current activity
 - In areas where children are playing, in particular the visibility and accessibility of these areas.
 - Risks in the environment and experiences provided to children
 - Educators' knowledge of each child and each group of children, the experience, knowledge, and skill of each educator.

3 Responsibility of Parents

- 3.1 To provide a spare set of clothing for their child if the child is engaging in water play and becomes uncomfortably wet.
- 3.2 Provide permission for all water related activities

Sources, further reading and useful websites

- Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).
- My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia (2011).
- Guide to the National Quality Standard
- Education and Care Services National Regulations
- <https://raisingchildren.net.au/babies/safety/bath-water-safety/water-safety>
- Network of community activities
- <https://www.kidsafensw.org/water-safety/>

Policy review information -

Review Date	Date completed	By Whom	Collaborated	Comment
Feb 2022	4/3/22	Brandi (Manager)	Staff Committee Parents	
Feb 2023	15/2/23	Brandi (Manager)		
Feb 2024	26/2/23	Brandi (Manager)		
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Feb 2026	1/3/2026	Brandi (Manager)		