



### **Purpose**

This policy and procedure outline the ongoing requirements to help keep children safe in and around water through supervision, practice and ongoing education and learning in a safe environment.

### **Policy Statement**

Water play is an important medium for children to experiment with and explore. Many children love to play with water and are naturally drawn to it, and they may not understand the danger associated with water. The safety and supervision of children in and around any water hazard is of the highest priority. This relates to any water-based activity including water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the preschool environment.

### **Policy Information**

- A water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth. Water hazards in children's learning environments include:
  - sinks, basins, fish tanks, fishbowls
  - swimming pools, portable pools
  - water courses, ponds, sandpits, clam shells
  - water troughs, containers and buckets used for play, animal drinking containers
  - pooling water
- Risk assessments are required to be completed that identify and assess risks associated with any water hazards and water-based activities.

### **Procedure**

#### **Active Supervision**

Children must be actively supervised at all times when there is a risk of access to any water hazard. Active supervision includes:

- Direct and constant monitoring of children – within arm's length (within 1 – 2 metres)
- Careful intentional positioning
- Scanning and moving around the area
- Listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
- Observing play and anticipating behaviour

#### **Water courses and ponds**

- Water courses must be designed so that the depth of the water, at any point, is less than 300mm.
- Where a pond (or any other water collection area) has, or has the potential to, pool water at a depth greater than 300mm. Appropriate controls must be implemented to ensure pond water does not become stagnant – refer OLE Standard.
- Water courses are, where possible, to be directed into areas that have suitable drainage systems to avoid pooling such as sand and garden areas.
- Fishponds and water features should have a rigid barrier over the water to prevent children from falling in.

#### **Water troughs, buckets, and other water receptacles**

- Water receptacles must be emptied immediately after use and stored upside down and out of children's reach. Access to kitchen is only allowed when an educator is present.
- When filling up a water trough or any water-based activity, educators must make sure the water is no greater than 300mm in depth.

## Eliminating hazards

- Daily playground inspection of outdoor learning environment is to be undertaken, including eliminating or removing the hazards of water pooling or ponding or contaminated water. All aspects of the environment must be designed to ensure adequate drainage of water to avoid pooling.
- Water must be emptied immediately after use and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use and discourage the congregation of spiders, wasps, and other harmful insects.
- Tap heads will be kept inside out of child reach for educators to access for the garden hose.
- Staff must use risk assessment procedures when setting up a water play experience taking into consideration children's abilities, children with special rights, and safety issues.
- At all times, when children are present, there must be at least one staff member with a current approved first aid qualification, on the premises.
- Clean drinking water is available via Pura tap located in the kitchen.
- Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5 degrees Celsius, thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber.
- Adults may carry and consume hot drinks in enclosed approved thermal cups/mug.

## Excursions

- Site leader, and or nominated supervisor must consider water safety and potential water hazards when undertaking a risk management plan for an excursion, including a regular outing. Site leader will refer to and use the Department for Education Camps and Excursions Policy and Procedure to plan, assess and manage risks.

**This policy will be reviewed annually and/or as required based on department policy updates and/or advice.**

Endorsed by Governing Council

Date: 22 August 2023

Chairperson:

Director:

Signed:

Signed:

*ORIGINAL COPY SIGNED, AND AVAILABLE AT PRESCHOOL.*

## Supportive Resources

If you require further information regarding any of our policies or procedures, go to [Department for Education | South Australia](#)

### National Quality Standard

Quality Area 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.2.1, 2.2.2

Quality Area 3.1

Quality Area 4.1.1

Quality Area 7.1.2, 7.1.3, 7.2.1

[National Quality Standard | ACECQA](#)

### Education and Care Services National Regulations

Regulation 87, 115, 168, 170, 171, 172

[Education and Care Services National Regulations \(2011 SI 653\) - NSW Legislation](#)

### Government of South Australia – Department for Education (DfE)

[Preschool water safety procedure \(edi.sa.edu.au\)](#)

[Outdoor learning environments standard \(edi.sa.edu.au\)](#)

[Water safety in education and care settings \(edi.sa.edu.au\)](#)