

3 – WATER SAFETY

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Contact officer: Coordinator of Children's Services
Next review date: 18 months – 2 years
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Related Policies/Local Laws/Legislation:

- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 – Section 167
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 - C1168(2)(h)&(a)(ii)
- National Quality Standard: QA2- 2.3 & QA3 – 3.1
- Swimming Pools Act 1992 and Australian Standards
- Swimming Pool Regulations 2008
- Work Health & Safety Act 2012
- *Local Government Act* 1993 No. 30 and Regulation

Related Documents:

- ACECQA (2011) *Guide to National Standards*.
- ACECQA (2011) *Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulation*
- Water M, Aleksandra N & Prof. M Stokes (2009) Family Day Care Victoria. *Child Safety Guidelines*. FDC Vic Inc.
- Kidsafe NSW: www.kidsafensw.org/water-safety/
- Kids Alive: www.kidsalive.com.au
- Kids health: http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/outdoor/water_safety.html
- NSW Dept Fair Trading: http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/ftw/Consumers/Product_and_service_safety/Pool_safety/Swimming_pools.page



PURPOSE

Activities involving water are an integral part of Australian life. Water is not just a great way to cool off on a hot day, but it provides great enjoyment and valuable learning experiences.

Water is also the “silent killer”. Drowning is the leading cause of death in Australia for children aged 1-4 years. While most drowning occurs in backyard swimming pools, it is important to be aware that children can drown in as little as 5cms of water. Other water hazards in relation child injuries and incidents include: nappy buckets, toilets, wading pools, spas, bath tubs, fishponds, fountains, pet drinking water, dams, creeks, lakes and beaches.

Children's Services Staff and Family Day Care Carers/Educators will take measures to prevent accidents and incidents relating to swimming, wading pools and other water hazards and will comply with relevant regulations and legislation.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

Wingecarribee Children's Services Staff employed by Wingecarribee Shire Council

Wingecarribee Family Day Care Educators as Agents of the Approved Provider – Wingecarribee Shire Council

All children and families accessing care with Council's Children's Services

All volunteers and students engaged with Wingecarribee Children's Services.

DEFINITIONS

“**Direct Supervision**” requires an Educator to be present in the care area with the children at all times, and to be able to maintain visual surveillance. There should be no physical barriers between Educator and children, and the Educator should remain in close proximity to the children.

PROCEDURE

1. Family Day Care

- 1.1 Any swimming pool on the premises of a family day carer must be fenced to the standard to which a new swimming pool would be required to be fenced under the Swimming Pools Act 1992 and Swimming Pools Regulation 2008. (including the requirements of the Swimming Pools Amendment Act 2012)
- 1.2 The Family Day Educator is required to demonstrate compliance of the Swimming Pool Act 1992 and Swimming Pool Regulations 2008 by:
 - 1.2.1 Registering their pool on line at www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au



- 1.2.2 Providing a certificate of compliance to the Coordination Unit every three (3) years
- 1.2.3 Complete a Risk Assessment which is reviewed annually, in line with the annual home safety and compliance inspection
- 1.2.4 Complete annually a Home Swimming Pool safety checklist produced by the division of Local government, Department of Premier and cabinet is completed and attached to the compliance report annually (where applicable)
<http://www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au/checklists>
- 1.3** Where there is a swimming pool in the home the Educator is responsible for ensuring:
 - 1.3.1 All fencing and gates are checked regularly as a part of the daily WHS safety check, that they are working correctly and compliant with regulatory requirements for pool fencing and gates.
 - 1.3.2 All objects are removed from around the pool fencing which could provide leverage for a child to climb or scale the pool fencing.
 - 1.3.3 A CPR chart is displayed in the immediate vicinity of the pool.
 - 1.3.4 All chemicals and filters are inaccessible to the children.
- 1.4** No child enrolled with the Family Day Care Service is to have access a swimming pool or spa.
- 1.5** No child enrolled in Wingecarribee Family Day Care is permitted to swim while in care.
- 1.6** A risk assessment will be conducted on any excursion taking place near a significant body of water and with consideration to the following:
 - 1.6.1 The number of children participating in the excursion
 - 1.6.2 The ages of the children participating in the excursion
 - 1.6.3 The experience, skill and number of staff participating in the excursion. The excursion coordinator needs to identify in the risk assessment how they are going to manage the direct supervision of the children, with consideration to the water hazard and how they would manage a "potential" emergency if a child were to fall into the water. This includes but not necessarily limited to, dams, lakes, beaches and drainage easements.
 - 1.6.4 Knowledge of the excursion venue and the potential water hazard
 - 1.6.5 Written authority of the parent/guardian and their knowledge of a potential water hazard at location.
 - 1.6.7 Any other potential risks or hazards associated with the excursion.Excursions near water will only take place after the risk assessment has been completed, considered and approved by the Coordination Unit Staff.
- 1.7** Direct supervision of children is maintained at all times, where care takes place in the vicinity of a significant water hazard e.g. home pool, beach, creek, storm water drain, lake, lagoon. Direct supervision applies even when a water hazard is fenced in accordance with the Swimming Pool Act.
- 1.8** An Educator may not directly supervise their own child for swimming activities whilst responsible for the supervision of children enrolled with family Day Care.



- 1.9 Educators are not able to take Family Day Care children to swimming lessons. It is the responsibility of the parents to organise and facilitate swimming lessons outside Family Day Care hours.
- 1.10 All water containers at the Educators premises that could constitute a drowning hazard must be filled immediately prior to the activity taking place and emptied immediately after. Alternatively they must be safely covered or inaccessible to children when not under direct supervision.
- 1.11 Any paddling pool used while children are in care must be used under direct supervision. It must be filled immediately prior to the activity taking place and emptied immediately after and stored to prevent the collection of water. These must contain no more than 300mm of water.
- 1.12 Any pond, dam or water feature which provides a water hazard on the Educators property must be inaccessible to children in care.

2. Wingecarribee Out of School Hours Care

- 2.1 No child enrolled in Wingecarribee Out of School Hours Service will be permitted to swim while in care.
- 2.2 A risk assessment will be conducted on any excursion taking place near a significant body of water and will carefully consider the following prior to the excursion taking place:
 - 2.2.1 The number of children participating in the excursion
 - 2.2.2 The ages of the children participating in the excursion
 - 2.2.3 The experience, skill and number of staff participating in the excursion.
 - 2.2.4 Knowledge of the excursion venue and the potential water hazard
 - 2.2.5 Written authority of the parent/guardian and their knowledge of a potential water hazard at location.
 - 2.2.6 Any other potential risks or hazards associated with the excursion.Excursion near water will only take place after the risk assessment has been completed, considered and approved by the Service Supervisor, Coordinator and Wingecarribee Shire Council Insurer.
- 2.3 Direct supervision of children is maintained at all times, where care takes place in the vicinity of a significant water hazard e.g. home pool, beach, creek, storm water drain, lake, lagoon. Direct supervision applies even when a water hazard is fenced in accordance with the Swimming Pool Act.
- 2.4 Recreational water activities including hoses, sprinklers, water balloons, water pistol are an integral part of the vacation care program particularly during the summer months. These are activities are programmed, supervised, monitored and evaluated by staff to ensure safety.
- 2.5 Any paddling pool used while children are in care must be used under direct supervision. It must be filled immediately prior to the activity taking place and emptied immediately after and stored to prevent the collection of water.



3. Child access to Hot Water

- 3.1** Children under school age who are provided with a children's service will not have unsupervised access to any hot water supply.
- 3.2** Children of school age who are provided with a children's service must not have unsupervised access to any hot water supply unless the hot water supply is regulated so as to keep it below 43.5 degrees Celsius, to avoid any child from becoming scalded.

Approved By:



Danielle Lidgard
GROUP MANAGER CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

