

E-7 Water Safety

NQS

QA. 2.1	Health.
QA. 2.1.2	Health practices and procedures.
QA. 2.2	Safety.
QA. 2.2.1	Supervision.
QA. 4.1	Staffing arrangements.
QA. 4.1.1	Organisation of educators.
QA. 7.1.2	Management systems.
QA. 7.1.3	Roles and responsibilities.

National Regulations

Reg. 77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
Reg. 78	Food and beverages
Reg. 100	Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion
Reg. 101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursion
Reg. 102	Authorisation for excursions
Reg. 168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures

My Time, Our Place

LO. 1	Children feel safe, secure, and supported
LO. 3	Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing

Policy Statement

We recognise that the safety of children is paramount when in or around water. We will ensure that children are supervised at all times especially during water play, excursions and around hot water. We will ensure that the appropriate hygiene policies are followed in relation to all drinking water provided at the Centre. All water-based activities will be assessed for potential risk prior to their commencement.

Related Policies

- Sylvania Heights BASC Policy A-10: Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations
- Sylvania Heights BASC Policy A-19: Nominated Supervisor
- Sylvania Heights BASC Policy B-6: Indoor Environment
- Sylvania Heights BASC Policy B-7: Outdoor Environment
- Sylvania Heights BASC Policy C-11: Staff Child Ratio

- Sylvania Heights BASC Policy D-2: Hygiene
- Sylvania Heights BASC Policy D-3: Food and Nutrition
- Sylvania Heights BASC Policy D-8: Sun Protection
- Sylvania Heights BASC Policy D-10: First Aid
- Sylvania Heights BASC Policy D-11: Management of Incident, Injury and Trauma
- Sylvania Heights BASC Policy E-5: Excursion

Procedure

Children at the centre will be provided with clean, fresh drinking water at all times. If water containers or canisters are supplied, they will remain securely sealed at all times and always emptied and cleaned thoroughly at the end of every day.

All hot water accessible to children must be no higher than 43.5°C. Any kitchen appliances used to heat water will be kept in an area not accessible to children. Educators will ensure all hot drinks are consumed away from the children, from securely lidded spill-proof cups or outside of centre opening hours.

During the daily grounds check, educators will ensure no pools or containers of water are present and in the case of extreme rain, educators will thoroughly inspect outdoor areas for any pooling of water before allowing children to play outside.

All buckets of water will be emptied immediately after use and no full buckets will be left in the children's play area. All water play involving water containers or troughs will be directly supervised at all times and emptied on to garden areas immediately after use. Children will be discouraged from drinking this water during play.

Educators will ensure that all water carrying vessels that can reasonably present a drowning hazard for children are stored in a manner so as to prevent inadvertently collecting water and causing a drowning risk to children.

All grey water or rain tanks will be clearly labelled "Do Not Drink" and all children playing in areas with water tanks located nearby will be monitored closely by educators to ensure that do not attempt to access the water supply.

Excursions that involve swimming or activities closely located to water will be planned to enable an educator child ratio of 1:5. Educators will ensure children are kept in sight at all times. Parents will be asked to consent to the swimming capabilities of their child and any child who is deemed not competent will not be allowed to swim. A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursions, including any in or around bodies of water.

Sources

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- National Quality Standard
- Education and Care Services National Law 2010

- Kidsafe NSW – ‘Hot water burns like fire’ and ‘Kids in and around water’
- Workplace health and safety act 2011
- Royal Lifesaving NSW

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