



Water Safety Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

Our service will program experiences with age and ability appropriate levels of challenge to promote the children to explore, experiment and take appropriate risks with water (“My Time Our Place – Outcome 4”). Educators will supervise children at all times as the safety of all children is our priority. All drinking water will be easily assessable, hygienically stored and maintained. The safety and supervision of children is a priority when; in or around water play, excursions near or at bodies of water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the Centre.

CONSIDERATIONS

Education & Care Services National Regulations	National Quality Standard	Related Policies & Documentation	Other
R99, R100, R101, R102, R103, R168	Standard 2.3	1. Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy (116) 2. Excursion Policy (105) 3. Enrolment & Orientation Policy (110)	1. My Time, Our Place 2. Work, Health and Safety Act 2011

DEFINITION OF A BODY OF WATER

The service recognises the following locations as bodies of water:

1. Swimming pools
2. Water fun parks
3. Wading pools
4. Lakes
5. Ponds
6. The Sea/Oceans
7. Creeks
8. Dams

9. Rivers
10. Equipment that can contain 5cm or more of water and children are able to submerge both nose and mouth at the same time.

WATER SAFETY – EXCURSIONS

1. The service acknowledges the risks associated with bodies of water and will ensure that every precaution is taken so that children are able to enjoy water-based excursions safely. Risk assessments will be completed for all water-based excursions (refer to *HNCCA 105 - Excursion Policy*). All families must provide authorised written permission prior to excursions including those involving water-based activities.
2. The National Law and Regulations does not specify a specific Educator to child ratio for water-based activities; however, for best practice we will meet a ratio of 1:5 when determined by risk assessment.
3. The service acknowledges the risks associated with bodies of water and will ensure all the following points must all be taken into consideration in the risk assessment:
 - 3.1 How many children attending, ages and abilities of the children attending;
 - 3.2 How many Educators attending and positioning of Educators;
 - 3.3 Visibility and accessibility of children;
 - 3.4 Risks in the environment and experiences provided to children;
 - 3.5 Educator's knowledge of each child and each group of children;
 - 3.6 The experience, knowledge and skill of each Educator.

WATER SAFETY – ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE SERVICE

1. All water use within the centre will be supervised, the safety of children and Educators is priority.
2. Consideration to the proximity of electricity will be given prior to all water use within the centre.
3. All water containers will be emptied and turned upside down or packed away.
4. Children will be instructed in the safe use of equipment used during water-based activities, for example, slip and slides, water pistols and bubble machines.
5. Buckets of water are to be supervised at all times.
6. The children's play areas will be checked before each session to ensure there are no containers of waters 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.

ENDORSEMENT BY THE SERVICE

Date Approved by Director: ____ / ____ / ____

Signature of Approval by Director: _____

Date Approved by Management Committee: ____ / ____ / ____

Signature of Committee Representative: _____

Role of Committee Representative: _____

Date for Review: ____ / ____ / ____