



Outside School Care NT

OSC-NT.35 – Water Safety Policy

| | |
|---|---|
| Policy Description | This Policy outlines guidelines to be followed with regard to supervision of water hazards. |
| Key Points | <p>Water hazard: (in relation to this policy) can lead to drowning or non-fatal drowning incidences.</p> <p>Drowning hazards include large bodies of water such as swimming pools, rivers, creeks, dams and ponds. Smaller bodies of water, including nappy buckets, water containers, pet water bowls, water slides and poor drainage which allows water to collect can also present drowning hazards for young children.</p> |
| 1.0 Identifying water hazards and mitigating risks | <p>The Director will identify and advise staff of potential water hazards on the school grounds or on planned excursion outings and undertake steps to mitigate risk. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ensuring that water safety awareness is embedded in the curriculum; b. ensuring that children are adequately supervised and protected from hazards and harm at all times; c. ensuring that water hazards and risks associated with water-based activities are considered in a risk assessment prior to conducting excursions and other offsite events (Regulations 100, 101); d. ensuring permission is obtained from parents/guardians for an excursion to a location where there is a water hazard; e. ensuring increased levels of supervision for an excursion to a location where there is a water hazard; f. ensuring that an educator with a current approved first aid qualification (refer to Definitions) is in attendance and immediately available at all times children are being educated and cared for. Ensuring that all educators' hold current approved first aid qualifications that meet the requirements of the National Regulations and are approved by ACECQA; g. ensuring gates and other barriers restricting access to water hazards are closed at all times and that fences are kept clear at all times; h. ensuring that containers of water located in the room (including mop buckets) and outdoors are in full view of educators; i. ensuring wading/paddling pools, water play containers and portable water courses are emptied immediately after each use and stored in a manner that prevents the collection of water when not in use; j. checking the outdoor learning environment at the beginning and end of each day for puddles or filled containers that could pose a potential risk to small children after heavy rain. |
| 2.0 Parent/Guardian responsibilities | <p>Parents/guardians are responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. supervising children in their care, including siblings, while attending or assisting at the service; b. ensuring that doors, gates and barriers, including playground gates, are closed after entry or exit to prevent access to water hazards; c. informing themselves about water safety; d. ensuring their children understand the risks associated with water; e. recognising when resuscitation is required and obtaining assistance; f. considering undertaking approved first aid qualifications, as resuscitation skills save lives. |

| | |
|--|--|
| Related Policy and Procedures, Forms and Checklists: | Risk Assessments Permission Slips |
| Specific Information for Parents: | Risk Assessments Permission Slips |
| Sources/References: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education and Care National Amendment Regulations 2017, regulations 100-102, 104, 136, 168(2)(a)(iii) 2. National Quality Standards February 2018, standards 2.3, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 3.1, 3.1.1, 4.1, 3. National Education and Care Services Law 2010 |
| Version Control/Updates: | <p>Version: 2.0 December 2013</p> <p>To be reviewed and updated by: June 2014</p> <p>Version 3.0 September 2016</p> <p>To be reviewed and updated by: September 2017</p> <p>Version: 4.0 November 2017</p> <p>To be reviewed and updated by: Novemeber 2018</p> |

