

Water Safety Policy

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursions
115	Premises designed to facilitate supervision
122	Educators must be working directly with children to be included in ratios
126	Centre based services-general educator qualifications
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures

RATIONALE

KAZ Early Learning Centre has a responsibility to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of each child at all times.

Drowning is the leading cause of death for children aged 1-4 years in Australia. While most drowning occurs in backyard swimming pools, it is important to be aware that children can drown in as little as 6cm of water.

There are many other water hazards in relation to child injuries and illness within or surrounding a children's service environment. These may include: nappy buckets, toilets, water troughs, wading pools, baths, spas, garden ponds, water features, fountains, pet drinking bowls, dams, beaches, rivers and creeks.

The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the service environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences and around any body of water.

WHO IS AFFECTED BY THIS POLICY?

Children
Staff
Parents
Families
Management

AIMS

To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to water hazards and to comply with the Education and Care Services National Regulations and the Education and Care Services National Law Act.

To provide guidelines for KAZ Early Learning Centre educators and staff to ensure safety to all children attending the service.

PROCEDURE

KAZ Early Learning Centre recognises the risk when children have access to any potential water hazard and are committed to providing a safe environment where water hazards and/or water play are accessible within the service.

KAZ Early Learning Centre does not have a swimming pool on the premises.

A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water. No excursion will be held where there is a significant water hazard.

The Nominated Supervisor will:

1. Provide guidance and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water.
2. Ensure work, health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and play.

Educators/Staff will ensure strict, careful supervision is maintained at all times when water play activities are provided for children (such as troughs, buckets and other water play equipment). Educators/staff will ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities.

Troughs and other water play containers must be emptied onto garden areas IMMEDIATELY after each use and stored to prevent the collection of water. Other water containers at the premises that could constitute a drowning hazard are safely covered or are inaccessible to children. Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No cleaning buckets are to be left in areas or accessible to children.

Educators/staff will carry out a daily Safety Inspection of premises to ensure that all hazards are known and minimised. When a hazard or potential hazard is detected, Educators will complete a

risk assessment to address any concerns and children will be excluded from the area until the hazard has been rectified.

Following rain, educators/staff will check the yard and empty water that has collected in sandpits, buckets, drains and other containers.

Educators/staff will teach children about staying safe in and around water.

Clean drinking water will be provided at all times. This water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming. Children will bring in water bottles from home, these bottles are refilled during the day and sent home to be washed daily. Educators/staff are to clean water bottles if they are left at the Service over night.

The Nominated Supervisor will ensure that any open drains are covered with a secure grill.

Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5°C. Thermostatic valves are to be tested and serviced by a plumber.

Adults may carry and consume hot drinks only in a thermal cup or mug with a screw lid that prevents spilling.

Water for pets at the setting must be changed regularly and only be accessible to children when adults are present.

KAZ Early Learning Centre educators/staff are qualified first aiders and have access to a fully equipped First Aid Kit (see First Aid Kit List) and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) charts. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) charts are displayed in the play room and outdoor playgrounds for educators/staff to access at all times.

Educators/staff will provide parents/guardians with access to resources and information regarding water safety to further educate families in the prevention of child accidents and illnesses relating to swimming, wading pools and other water hazards outside the service.

KAZ Early Learning Centre Related Policies:

Supervision Policy

Excursion Policy

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA)

<http://www.acecqa.gov.au/>

Children (Education and Care Services) Nation Law (NSW) 104a

<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/2010/104a/full>

Department of Education

<http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/what-we-offer/regulation-and-accreditation/early-childhood-education-care>

Education and Care Services National Regulations

<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2011/653>

Kidsafe NSW

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/water-safety/>

http://www.kidsafensw.org/imagesDB/wysiwyg/SwimmingPoolSafetyKL2009_2.pdf

Kids Alive

<https://kidsalive.com.au/early-childhood-program/>

Kids Health

http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/outdoor/water_safety.html

National Quality Framework (NQF)

<http://acecqa.gov.au/national-quality-framework/>

Related Telephone Numbers

- Early Childhood Directorate – 1800 619 113
- Kidsafe - 02 9845 0890
- Emergency Services – 000

REVIEW

This policy will be updated to ensure compliance with all relevant legal requirements every year. Appropriate consultation of all stakeholders (including staff and families) will be conducted on a timely basis. In accordance with Regulation 172 of the *Education and Care Services National Regulation*, families of children enrolled will be notified at least 14 days and their input considered prior to any amendment of policies and procedures that have any impact on their children or family.

Amendment

Short Description

Related Statutory Obligations & Considerations

Updated, NQS added

Date Issued:

October 2019

Review Date:

October 2020

Family, Educator and Staff Comments: