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## WATER SAFETY

### QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

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#### 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, practices and implemented

#### Education and Care Services National Regulations

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law	
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 bases services – general educator qualifications
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures

### Introduction

Woden Early Childhood Centre (WECC) considers the safety and supervision of children in and around water to be of the highest priority. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in WECC. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

### Scope

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the Service.

### Goals – What are we aiming to do?

Children's safety and wellbeing will:

- be protected in and around water through supervision and prevention
- be promoted through the availability of clean, hygienic water for play and for drinking

### Strategies – How will it be done?

The Nominated Supervisor of Director and Educational Leader will:

- provide guidance and education to educators and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water
- ensure work health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and play
- conduct a risk assessment in accordance with the requirements prior to taking children on an excursion which contains or may contain water
- ensure at least one educator who holds a current approved first aid qualification must be in attendance at all times

Educators will:

- ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. These activities will be supervised at all times and containers or troughs will be emptied onto garden areas after use. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities
- ensure water troughs are not used without a stand, keeping it off the ground with sand on the bottom of the trough
- ensure children remain standing on the ground whilst using the water trough
- teach children about staying safe in and around water
- empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No buckets will be left in play areas or be accessible to children
- ensure laundry, storerooms and educator areas are to have No Children Allowed Signs on doors to remind adults to close doors behind them
- provide clean drinking water at all times. This water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming. Water containers will be securely sealed and stored. At the end of each day, the water container used to fill children's drink bottles will be emptied and cleaned thoroughly
- ensure children are supervised and never left alone near any water
- complete a daily Safety Inspection of the 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
- utilise water activities in appropriate weather
- allow the children the opportunity to experiment with water, sand and mixing materials, plus a space for

- boats and floating objects to be used with other water play equipment
- monitor the tap and make sure it is turned off securely when not in use

### *Operational Safety*

- grey water systems or water tanks will be labelled with 'do not drink' signage and the children will be supervised in this area to make sure they are not accessing this water for drinking. Educators will discuss with the children that this water is for the purpose of play and not for consumption
- hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5°C. Thermostatic valves will be tested and serviced annually by a plumber
- a risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place, with particular attention to be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water
- water for any animals visiting WECC must be changed regularly and only be accessible to children when adults are present. Water for WECC's chickens will be changed regularly by educators and children entering the chickens' pen will be supervised
- water for pets at the service must be changed daily and only be accessible to children when educators are present

Important: parents will be notified as soon as practicable but within 24 hours if their child is involved in an incident/accident at the Service or while under Service care. Also, details of the incident/accident will be recorded on an Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record

Important: if the incident/accident, situation or event presents imminent or severe risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of the child or if an ambulance was called in response to the emergency (not as a precaution) the regulatory authority will be notified within 24 hours

## Evaluation

Supervision and access to water within WECC is managed effectively by educators to ensure children remain safe and healthy

## Related policies /documents

- First aid*
- Incident, injury, trauma and illness*
- Supervision*

## Statutory legislation and considerations

- Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2015

## Sources and references

- Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (2014)
- ECA Code of Ethics
- National Health and Medical Research Council – [www.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au)
- NSW Department of Health – [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

- Pool and Water Safety – [www.kidsafe.com.au](http://www.kidsafe.com.au)
- Water use and restrictions see – [www.bom.gov.au/water/restrictions](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/restrictions)

## Authorisation

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President  
2017-18 WECC Management Committee