



Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

Water Safety Procedure

14/6/2019

Updated and amended 8/2/2021

Policy Statement

Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten, Staff and Volunteers understand the risks that water based activities pose are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all children involved in water based activities.

To outline the procedures that apply to managing water safety, including safety during any water-based activities in all Department for Education (DfE) preschool sites, in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 168 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.

Objectives

1. Children need opportunities to develop their understanding of the natural environment.
2. Experiences with water encourage active exploration and discovery of the environment.
3. Knowledge of potential hazards associated with water will assist educators to provide a safe, stimulating environment for preschool children.
4. Drowning and near drowning is an obvious hazard associated with water (more than 100 children drown in Australia each year). While swimming pools are an obvious hazard, other drowning hazards for young children include nappy storage buckets, animal water containers, buckets, ponds and poor drainage that allows for water to pool.

Procedure

1. **Water hazards:**

- A water hazard is anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth. There are a number of water hazards in children's learning environments, including: • Sinks, basins, fish tanks/bowls, baths • Swimming pools, portable pools, spas • Water courses, ponds, sandpits, clam shells • Water troughs, containers and buckets used for play, animal drinking containers • Pooling water

2. **Educators will -**

- complete a risk assessment before allowing children to engage in water based activities at the service or on excursion and ensure all risks are minimised or eliminated where possible
 - ensure no child swims in any water without:
 - written permission from parents
 - appropriate educator/child ratios in place and adequate supervision
- closely supervise children at all times and never leave any child unattended near water,
- Direct and constant monitoring of children – within arm's length (within 1 – 2 metres)
 - Careful intentional positioning
 - Scanning and moving around the area
 - Listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
 - Observing play and anticipating behaviour
 - Higher adult/child ratios
- ensure children with diarrhoea, upset stomachs, open sores or nasal infections do not swim or play in water

- ensure all children wear appropriate swimmers in a pool, go to the toilet before entering the pool, and follow correct toileting hygiene practices while in the pool
- remove all children immediately if a child passes a bowel motion in the pool, advise pool managers if at a public pool, disinfect and if practical empty a home pool or trough.

To prevent accidents and illnesses related to water based activities at the preschool service, educators will:

- fill wading pools or other vessels with less than 300 mm of water
- cover all water containers like ponds, buckets/ nappy buckets, bathtubs or ensure they are inaccessible to children at all times
- immediately empty all wading pools/water troughs etc. after every use and store in a way that prevents water collecting in them (e.g. upright/inverted)
- Risk assessments will be done on any water play activities where the water is above 5 cm.
- ensure children's play areas are safely fenced off from water hazards like rivers, dams, creeks, lakes, irrigation channels, water-wells
- check premises after rain or regular watering and empty/dissipate water that has collected in pot-holes or containers
- ensure all pools and troughs in which children play are hygienically cleaned, disinfected and chlorinated (larger pools) in accordance with the instructions on the relevant maintenance container. For wading pools and troughs educators will:
 - remove leaves and debris daily
 - hose away surface dirt
 - scrub inside with disinfectant and rinse it away before refilling.

Roles and Responsibilities

This policy applies to all educators and volunteers in a DfE preschool service.

All Staff and Volunteers have a duty of care to the children to ensure a safe environment is provided at all times.

Resources

- National Quality Standard and Regulations - National Quality Standard 2.3, Regulation 168 (2) (a) (iii)
- Water Safety for Preschools (DfE) – Preschool Water Safety Procedure
- Kidsafe - Water Safety in Education and Care Settings (Government of SA)
- Camps and excursions guidelines for schools and preschools (DfE)
- Royal Life Saving Protection Australia - Fact Sheets

Approved and Checked By

Review 2022 or as required

Approved and Checked By:

Centre Director

.....Date

Governing Council Representative

.....Date