



# Water Safety Procedure

## Overview

At Pooraka Community Kindergarten we create opportunities for children to learn and develop whilst we protect the health, safety and wellbeing of each child always.

Water safety procedures keep children safe in and around water and support children's learning in a safe environment. Under the *Education and Care Services National Regulations*, we must ensure that procedures are in place for managing water safety, including any water-based activities (regulation 168(2)(a)(iii) and take reasonable steps to ensure those procedures are followed (regulation 170).

Pooraka Community Kindergarten operates in line with the Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010 and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011. Children's safety and wellbeing will be protected in and around water through supervision and education

## Water Hazard

'A water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth. Water hazards in children's learning environments include:

- 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.' (Water safety for preschools, Department for Education, 2023).

## Responsibilities of the Educators

Our staff will:

- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied or covered securely after use.
- Buckets filled with water for cleaning are to be filled immediately before use and emptied and thoroughly cleaned immediately after use. No cleaning buckets are to be left in areas accessible to children.
- Equipment will be stored away from the elements to prevent collection/pooling of water. The garden will be checked after watering or rain and any water collected will be emptied / drained.
- Discourage children from drinking grey water. Always provide clean drinking water.
- Only consume hot drinks near children if it is in a thermal mug with lid.
- Supervise children in toilet facilities within the service.
- Write and implement risk assessments for activities that involve water.
- Respect water as a precious resource and encourage children to turn taps off, only use what they need, have taps for water play on low, and so on.

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- Actively supervise children when playing with or around water.  
‘Active supervision includes:
  - 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’ ([Kidsafe, 2018](#)).

### Excursions

Educators will consider water safety and potential water hazards when undertaking a risk assessment for an excursion (*Education and Care Services National Regulations R 101 (2) (b)*).

### Working with families, health services & industry

Our Centre:

- Provides information from Kidsafe to families and caregivers on [Water Safety](#) through a variety of media such as:
  - Notices
  - Policy consultation
  - Information on enrolment
  - Access to risk assessments
  - Accessible on our website.
- Encourage families to reinforce water safe practices at home with their children.

### Related Legislation

- [Education and Early Childhood Services \(Registration and Standards\) Act 2011, Schedule 1 Education and Care Services National Law \(South Australia\)](#)
- [Education and Care Services National Regulations](#)

### Provision Register

Version Number	Details of Changes Made	Date Issued
1		November 2023

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