



Woolooware Outside School Hours Care

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WATER SAFETY POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

Woolooware Outside School Hours will plan experiences with appropriate levels of challenge where children will be encouraged to explore, experiment and take appropriate risks ("My Time, Our Place", L.O 4), including the use of water as a medium for play in both the outdoor and indoor environment and on excursions. Water use will be supervised at all times to ensure the safety of children is a priority. The hygienic state of water will be assessed before it is used for children's play. Drinking water will be accessible, hygienically stored and maintained.

The safety and supervision of children is paramount when in or around water. This relates to water play, excursions near or at bodies of water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the service environment.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 168
- National Quality Standard 2.3
- My Time, Our Place.
- Work, Health & Safety Act 2011

PROCEDURE

Water safety in relation to water-based activities within the service:

- Water use within the service will be supervised to ensure that the safety of children and educators is a priority. The hygienic state of water will be assessed before it is used for children's play.
- At the completion of the activity the water containers will be emptied and the containers turned upside down or packed away. Educators will ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water vessels.
- Children will be instructed in the safe use of equipment used during water-based activities, for example, slip and slide, water pistols, bubble machines, etc.
- Any buckets of water that may be used for cleaning or hand washing will not be left unsupervised near the children and will be emptied immediately after use
- The children's play areas will be checked each morning to ensure that no containers or pools of water are accessible to children. If rain occurs during the day, outdoor play areas will be checked for safety prior to the children entering the outdoor environment.

Water Safety in relation to excursions:

- Woolooware Outside School Hours Care recognises the risks posed by bodies of water and will ensure that every precaution is taken so that children are able to enjoy water-based excursions safely. Risk assessments will be carried out for all water-based excursions, please refer to the service's Excursion Policy. Authorisation from families will be sought prior to excursions including those involving water-based activities.



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The National Law and Regulations do not specify a specific educator to child ratio for activities where water is a feature. The number of educators present is to be determined by a risk assessment of the proposed activity. It must also be noted that in sections 165, 167 and 169 of the National Law there are clear statements about adequate supervision. A range of factors shall determine the adequacy of supervision, including:

- Numbers, ages and abilities of the children
- Number and positioning of educators
- Each child's current activities
- Areas where children are playing, in particular the visibility and accessibility of these areas
- Risks in the environment and experiences provided to children
- Educators knowledge of each child and each group of children,
- The experience, knowledge and skill of each educator

DATE ENDORSED: April 26, 2021

DATE FOR REVIEW AND EVALUATION: April 26, 2023