

# WATER SAFETY POLICY

Central Shoalhaven Mobile Preschools aim is to prevent child accidents and illness relating to swimming pools and other water hazards to comply with the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011. Drowning is the leading cause of death for children aged 1-4 years in Australia. Whilst most drowning occurs in backyard pools, it is important to be aware that children drown in as little as 5cm of water. Other water hazards in relation to child injuries and illnesses are: nappy buckets, toilets, wading pools, spas, bathtubs, fishponds, fountains, pet drinking bowls, dams, creeks, lakes, and beaches.

## 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	
Sec. 165	Offence to inadequately supervise children
Sec. 167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards
25(1)(c)	Additional information about proposed education and care services premises
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(2)(a)(iii)	Education and care service must have policies and procedures in relation to- Water safety, including safety during any water-based activities
170	Policies and procedures to be followed
274	Swimming pools (NSW)

## RELATED POLICIES

Administration of First Aid Policy	Health and Safety Policy
Child Safe Environment Policy	Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
Educational Program Policy	Physical Environment Policy
Excursion/ Event Policy	Supervision Policy

## PURPOSE

To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to swimming pools, wading pools and other water hazards.

## SCOPE

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

## IMPLEMENTATION

- Remove all objects from around a pool, trough or other water hazard that a child could use to climb over fencing, such as logs, trees, bikes, chairs and bins.
- Ensure no child swims in any water without:
- Written permission from parent or guardian to learn water safety and swimming.
- Appropriate adult/child ratios are in place.
- Supervision is provided by a person with first aid certificate, or a recognised award experienced in water safety and rescue procedures.
- Closely supervise children near water at all times, never leave a child alone near any water, and two adults supervise if children are using a paddling pool/water trough.
- Keep cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) guide near any water and on clear visible display.
- Safely cover or make inaccessible to children all water containers, e.g. pond's, spas, nappy buckets, bathtubs and ensure that child play areas are safely fenced off from water hazards such as dams, creeks, lakes, irrigation channels, wells.
- Empty wading pools/water trough and store to prevent the collection of water e.g. upright, also check garden after rain or watering and empty water that has collected in holes or containers.
- Ensure wading pool/water trough is disinfected and chlorinated appropriately:
- Clean out leaves and debris every day by hosing away surface dirt and scrubbing the inside with disinfectant.
- Rinse away disinfectant before filling pool/trough.
- Chlorinate pool appropriately before children enter the pool.
- Check chlorine levels regularly.
- Children with diarrhoea, upset stomach, open sores or nasal infections should not use the pool.
- All children should wear clean bathers and go to the toilet before entering the pool, following correct toileting hygiene practices.
- If a child passes a bowel motion while in the pool, remove all children from the pool immediately, empty pool and disinfect.



## SOURCE

Kidsafe NSW Inc

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/docs/factsheets/PAU/Sandpits%20KL%202011.pdf>

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

The Children's Hospital at Westmead [www.chw.edu.au](http://www.chw.edu.au)

Child and Youth Health [www.cyh.com](http://www.cyh.com)

## REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED	MARCH 2022	NEXT REVIEW DATE	MARCH 2023
-----------------	------------	------------------	------------