

2.6 WATER SAFETY

Policy

Drowning is the major cause of accidental death for children aged one to four. Family Day Care Educators will ensure that the highest level of safety is maintained at all times in relation to water features, ponds, pools, spas, water tanks, buckets and water based activities at the family day care residence/venue.

Particular attention will be paid to any water hazards when planning excursions and regular outings.

Procedures

1. All children near water will be directly and closely supervised and no child will be left unsupervised near water at any time.
2. All swimming pools and spas at a family day care educator's residence/venue must have a current pool safety certificate.
3. Any items around the perimeter of the pool or spa must not enable a child to climb in order to gain access to the fenced pool yard.
4. An educator will not permit children in their care to be on premises where a pool is not fenced in accordance with government standards.
5. Windows that allow direct access to the pool or spa should not open more than 100mm.
6. Any containers that hold or collect water should be emptied, securely covered or made inaccessible to children.
7. All fish ponds and water features must be securely covered by material which can support the weight of an adult and remains above the water level at all times.
8. Prior to water based activities taking place educators must develop a written risk assessment if it has not already been addressed as part of the educator's house risk assessment.
9. Wading pools and other water play containers must be emptied immediately after use and stored to prevent the collection of water.
10. Written permission is to be obtained from parents allowing Educators who have their own pools to use the pool when the applicable adult to child ratio can be satisfied. If the adult to child ratio cannot be applied, no swimming will take place and any attempt to facilitate the correct adult to child ratio by leaving some children unattended outside the fenced pool must not occur.
11. There must be a strict observance of the adult to child ratio for swimming. These ratios apply to all day care children participating in swimming:
 - For children who are less than 3 years --- 1 adult for each child.
 - For children who are at least 3 years but not yet of school age --- 1 adult for each 2 children.
 - For children who are of at least school age --- 1 adult for each 5 children.

12. Educators may achieve the adult to child ratio by enlisting other adults over eighteen (18) years of age. Any adults enlisted by the Educator to assist with maintaining the correct adult to child ratio must be approved as a suitable Educator Assistant by the Mackay Family Day Care Scheme and hold a current first aid certificate including CPR, asthma and anaphylaxis training, a positive suitability notice and a blue card.
13. Where an Educator is supervising children in or around water, the Educator should keep the children together and should be with the children either in the water or out of it. The situation where one child is in the water and one child out of it should not occur.
14. Children must not be taken within the grounds of a public swimming pool.

Date Implemented	Review Date	Date Updated	Source
2009 July	2011 January 2012 July 2014 January 2015 July 2018 May 2019 March 2021 February	2016 November 2017 September 2019 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 • Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011