

2.6 WATER SAFETY

Policy Statement:

Water safety policies and procedures help keep children safe in and around water, and support children's learning in a safe environment. Mackay 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 outings.

Background:

According to Kidsafe (the recognised authority on the prevention of injuries in children), drowning continues to be one of the main causes of fatalities of Australian children.

Legislative Requirements:

Section/regulation	Description
Section 165	Offence to inadequately supervise children.
Section 167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazard.
Regulation 25(1)(c)	Additional information about proposed education and care service premises.
Regulation 101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursion.
Regulation 115	Premises designed to facilitate supervision.
Regulation 116	Assessments of family day care residences and approved family day care venues.
Regulation 116A	Inspection of swimming pools, water features and other potential water hazards at family day care residences and approved family day care venues.
Regulation 116B	Inspection Report.
Regulation 116C	Compliance with fencing requirements for swimming pools at family day care residences and approved family day care venues.
Regulation 168(2)(a)(iii)	Education and care service must have policies and procedures on water safety, including safety during water based activities.
Regulation 169	Additional policies and procedures – family day care services
Regulation 170	Policies and procedures to be followed.
Regulation 171	Policies and procedures to be kept available.
Regulation 172	Notification of change to policies or procedures.

General 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. An educator will not permit children in their care to be on premises where a pool is not fenced in accordance with current Queensland pool safety laws.
3. 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.

Water Play

1. Any containers that hold or collect water should be emptied, securely covered or made inaccessible to children.
2. Prior to any water-based activities taking place educators must develop a comprehensive written risk assessment if it has not already been addressed as part of the educator's house risk assessment.
3. Wading pools and other water play containers must be emptied immediately after use and stored to prevent the collection of water.

Swimming Pools and Spas

1. All swimming pools and spas at a family day care educator's residence/venue must have a current pool safety certificate.
2. Any items around the perimeter of the pool or spa must be situated at least 900mm away from the top of the pool fence.
3. Pool gates must not be locked.
4. Pool gates must always be latched and never propped open.
5. Prior to swimming taking place, educators must develop a comprehensive written risk assessment which must be submitted to co-ordinators for approval.
6. Before approving a swimming risk assessment, a co-ordinator must visit the educator seeking approval for swimming to ascertain the appropriateness of the facilities.
7. 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.
8. For children who are less than 18 months of age, there must be 1 adult in the pool yard providing constant supervision for each child.
9. At all times, when more than one child over 18 months of age is taken swimming, a minimum of 2 adults with a blue card/exemption card, current first aid and CPR qualifications must be in the pool yard providing constant supervision.
10. The educator must consider each child's swimming ability when determining if it is safe to take them swimming.
11. When swimming, all under school age children must wear a swim vest which complies with AS/NZS 1900. School age children must wear a swim vest if the educator determines their swimming ability requires this. A swim vest is not a substitute for strict adult supervision.
12. Children must not be taken within the grounds of a public swimming pool.

Outings to Beaches, Dams, Creeks, Rivers and other Water Sources

1. Prior to gaining authorisations to take children on outings, educators must visit the venue and develop a comprehensive risk assessment.
2. Children are not permitted to swim in the ocean, dams, lakes, creeks, rivers, or other natural bodies of water.
3. Educators should consider the ages, skills and abilities of the children in their care when planning outings.
4. Educators should discuss the risks and safety precautions with children before undertaking outings to/near any body of water.

Date Implemented	Review Due	Date Reviewed	Date Updated	Source
2009 July	2011 January 2012 July 2014 January 2015 July 2017 January 2018 July 2019 March 2021 February 2022 August 2024 February 2025 August	2011 January 2012 July 2014 January 2015 July 2017 January 2022 August	2017 September 2019 August 2021 February 2024 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 • Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 • Guide to the National Quality Standard.