

ARMIDALE & DISTRICT FAMILY DAY CARE

Water Safety Policy

Policy/policies:	Excursion Policy, Supervision Policy
Regulation/s/ Standards:	Education and Care Services National Regulation- 274 (3) NQS 2.2., 2.2.1
Related procedures:	Work Health and Safety
References:	Staying Healthy in Child Care (5 th Edition) Kidsafe- FDC Safety Guidelines Health and Safety in FDC Models and Practices - 2 nd Edition- Frith, Kambouris, O'Grady
Date effective	February 2017
Date for review	February 2019
Purpose	To ensure the safety of children by protecting them from the possibility of drowning and acknowledging the danger of bodies of water to young children.
Responsibility	Educators, Staff, Educator Assistants and Relief Educators

Key information:

Children have no fear and little ability to look after themselves when near water. On average, one child dies each week in Australia because of preventable drowning. The children at greatest risk are toddlers; aged 1 to 4 and for them, drowning is one of the most common causes of death, children can drown in as little as 5cm of water.

Therefore, children need constant attention and supervision when they are near water to prevent drowning.

Family Day Care Educators, in their professional role as teachers, mentor and protector of young children will follow procedure and take steps to prevent child accidents relating to water.

Practices

Water Play:

- Water activities involving sprinklers, hoses and soaker hoses are endorsed, and are an important way to promote water confidence in young children.
- Paddling pools are endorsed for use by children over 2 years of age only. Careful, constant, Family Day Care Educator supervision must be maintained always. The pool must be emptied immediately if it is no longer being used. Should the Educator be called away (to answer the door or phone, attend to another child etc.), the pool must be emptied immediately.

Hazard Checklist

- Check garden after rain or watering and empty water that has collected in holes or containers that could constitute a drowning hazard. Common items such as buckets, water features, fishponds or even a pet's water bowl is a potential hazard for toddlers
- Store wading pools/clam shells to prevent the collection of water, e.g. upright.

Check pool gates are locked/secure each morning before children arrive

- Close top loading washing machine and secure lid on nappy bin (if using one)

Excursions:

- An Educator must conduct a risk assessment of an excursion located near a water hazard. The nominated Supervisor will consider the request based on information in the risk assessment and adult/child ratios (refer to Excursion policy).
- In Armidale, Civic Park and the actual Arboretum are areas that are not accessible with children due to the water hazards. You can visit the Arboretum Park, not the area where the water is.
- There is no access to council/school/UNE pools whilst children are in care, as supervision of children presents difficulty because of the number of other people present and the ease of access to a range of other pools.

Pools at Educators Premises:

It states in the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 Page 265

The approved provider of a family day care service must ensure that any swimming pool at a family day care residence or approved family day care venue of the service in New South Wales is fenced in accordance with the requirements for fencing a new swimming pool under the *swimming pools Act 1992 of New South Wales*.

- There is no access or use to Educators private swimming pools by any person whilst children are in care.
- Any pool filters at the premises must be inaccessible to children.
- Gates must be, maintained, self-closing and self-latching and have a child resistant lock. Always check before the children arrive each morning
- All objects should be removed from around the pool that could be used to climb over fencing, such as bikes, chairs, bins, furniture,
- CPR chart should be clearly visible in the pool area.

Whilst destinations with a significant water hazard e.g. dams, ponds, creeks or rivers are to be generally avoided, visits to the Arboretum and the Creek land parks can happen for children under school age if there is one adult for every child who is under 3 and one adult for every two children who are three years to five.