

POLICY AIM

Sweetpeas 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*.

RATIONALE

Our service has a responsibility to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of each child at all times.

According to Kidsafe, drowning is one of the leading causes of unintentional death for Australian children. Every year a number of children are killed and hundreds more rescued from near drowning situations. Non-fatal drowning incidents are also of great concern as they can have potential long-term effects, including brain damage and permanent disability.

The most common factor in childhood drowning is lack of supervision. A child can drown in as little as a few centimetres of water. Items such as nappy buckets, sinks, pet drinking bowls, ponds, pools, water features, water tanks are all potential drowning hazards.

SCOPE - WHO IS AFFECTED BY THIS POLICY?

- Children
- Staff/Educators
- Families
- Management

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD

QUALITY AREA 2 - CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Element 2.1.2 (Health practices and procedures) - *Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.*
- Standard 2.2 (Safety) - *Each child is protected.*
- Element 2.2.1 (Supervision) - *At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.*
- Element 2.2.2 (Incident and emergency management) - *Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented.*

QUALITY AREA 3 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RELATED POLICIES & LEGISLATION

RELATED SWEETPEAS POLICIES:

- Administration of First Aid Policy
- Child Safe Environment Policy
- Development and Education Policy
- Excursion Policy
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
- Supervision Policy

RELATED EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW AND REGULATIONS:

- Law s165 - Offence to inadequately supervise children
- Law s167 - Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards
- Regulation 101 Conduct of risk assessment for excursions
- Regulation 115 Premises designed to facilitate supervision
- Regulation 122 Educators must be working directly with children to be included in ratios
- Regulation 126 Centre based services-general educator qualifications
- Regulation 168 - Education and care service must have policies and procedures
- Regulation 274 Swimming pools (NSW)

TERMINOLOGY

- **National Law** - *Education and Care Services National Law 2010*
- **National Regulations** - *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*
- **Water Hazards** - The *National Regulations* make reference to 'water hazards' however the term is not expressly defined. In this policy, a water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth and a 'water hazard' may include:
 - large bodies of water such as dams, creeks, river or pooling water, swimming pool, portable pools and spas, jetted bathtubs (or hot tubs)
 - fishponds
 - smaller bodies of water such as baths, mop buckets
 - sinks, basins
 - water features
 - containers for feeding animals
 - water troughs, containers for paddling- clam shells
 - beach

IMPLEMENTATION AND STRATEGIES

To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to water hazards **Sweetpeas** will ensure:

- Children will be supervised at all times in and around any body of water including water troughs, toilets and buckets.
- A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water.
- The thermostat on the hot water system is set to a medium temperature to ensure children are not able to scald themselves when washing hands.
- Children requiring bathing will be bathed using a washcloth and warm water or showered, rather than immersed in a bath.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR APPROVED PROVIDER:

- Ensure the service operates in line with the *National Law* and *National Regulations*.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR NOMINATED SUPERVISOR/RESPONSIBLE PERSONS:

- Ensure children are adequately supervised, and are protected from harms and hazards
- Provide supervision, guidance and advice to ensure adherence to the policy at all times
- Ensure risk assessments for excursions planned near water hazards, identify a higher staff to child ratio to ensure adequate supervision
- Complete detailed risk assessments that identify and assess risks associated with any water hazards
- Ensure First Aid and CPR qualifications and requirements are met at all times
- Provide families with community messages regarding safe water practices
- Ensure there are no items near fencing that children could climb up onto to gain access to a water hazard (pot plants, boxes, chairs)
- Ensure no child swims in any water without:
 - Written permission from parent or guardian to learn water safety and swimming.
 - Appropriate adult/child ratios in place.
 - Supervision provided by a person with first aid certificate, or a recognised award experienced in water safety and rescue procedures.

FOR EDUCATORS

- Embed water safety messages into the children's education program.
- Utilise water activities in appropriate weather as part of the planned program
- Allow the children the opportunity to experiment with water, sand, and mixing materials.
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied or covered securely after use.
- Ensure water troughs are not used without a stand to keep it off the ground
- Ensure children remain standing on the ground whilst using the water trough

- Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No cleaning buckets are to be left in areas or accessible to children.
- Discourage children from drinking grey water. Provide clean drinking water at all times.
- Supervise children in toilet facilities within the service
- Closely supervise children near water at all times, never leave a child alone near any water.
- Complete a daily Safety Inspection of premises to ensure that all hazards are known and minimised. When a hazard or potential hazard is detected, children will be excluded from the area until the hazard has been rectified.
- Monitor all taps on the premises that children have access to and ensure they are turned off securely when not in use
- Ensure buckets of water for soaking toys or clothing are inaccessible to children.

FOR CHILDREN

- Ensure that every child has adult supervision before approaching an area with water

FOR FAMILIES

- Reinforce water safety practice with children

REFERENCES

- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Kids Alive: Do the Five www.kidsalive.com.au
- Kids Health - http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/outdoor/water_safety.html
- Kidsafe NSW Inc <http://www.kidsafensw.org/water-safety/>
- The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network www.schn.health.nsw.gov.au

REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS

This policy will be updated regularly to ensure compliance with all relevant legal requirements. Appropriate consultation of all stakeholders (including staff and families) will be conducted on a timely basis. In accordance with *Regulation 172* of the National Regulations, families of children enrolled will be notified at least 14 days and their input considered prior to any amendment of policies and procedures that have any impact on their children or family.

Version	Amendment(s)	Review Date	Updated By
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated regulations and NQS• Kidsafe information still accurate and relevant	July 2020	Janine Evans (Nominated Supervisor)
2.1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No changes required	July 2021	Janine Evans (Nominated Supervisor)
2.2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cosmetic changes for new policy template• Reworded rationale	September 2022	Cassandra Way (Assistant Manager)