



Water Safety Policy

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

Policy Statement

The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. Whilst water hazards at Tathra Preschool are kept to a minimum, we acknowledge that water troughs, sinks and toilets can all be hazardous for children and diligent supervision is required.

Policy Goals

Tathra Preschool has a responsibility to protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of each child at all times. Drowning is the leading cause of death for children aged 1-4 years in Australia. While most drowning occurs in backyard swimming pools, it is important to be aware that children can drown in less than 6cm of water.

Legislative Requirement

This policy reflects the legislative requirements. for managing water safety and include but are not limited to:

| Section/regulation Description | Authority/Responsibility For |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Section 165 | Offence to inadequately supervise children |
| Section 167 | Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards |
| Regulation 25(1)(c) | Additional information about proposed education and care service premises |

| Regulation Description | Authority/Responsibility For |
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| Regulation 26(1)(l) | Application for service approval – family day care – swimming pool |
| Regulation 101 | Conduct of risk assessment for excursion |
| Section 102C | Conduct of risk assessment for transporting of children by the education and care service |
| Regulation 115 | Premises designed to facilitate supervision |
| Regulation 116 | Assessments of family day care residences and approved family day care venues |
| Regulation 168(2) (a)(iii) | Education and care services must have policies and procedures on water safety, including safety during any water-based activities |
| Regulation 169 | Additional policies and procedures – family day care service |
| 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 |
| Regulation 274 | Swimming pools (NSW only) |

Strategies; How will it be done?

Water Safety

- Children will be supervised at all times in and around any body of water including water troughs and toilets.
- Educator-to-child ratios will be increased where appropriate around water.
- No child will be left unsupervised at any stage around any body of water.
- 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 rather than immersed in a bath.
- Educators are not permitted to consume hot drinks in any area accessible to children.

Water Hygiene

- Grey water systems or water tanks will be labelled with “do not drink” signage and the children will be supervised in this area to make sure they are not accessing this water for drinking.
- Educators will discuss with the children that this water is for the purpose of play and not for consumption.
- Water for pets at the service will be changed regularly at not accessible to children unless supervised by an adult.
- Water containers of any sort will be emptied or covered when not in use.
- Drinking water containers will be emptied and cleaned daily.

Roles and Responsibilities

Approved Provider will:

- Ensure the preschool operates in line with the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations 2011.

Nominated Supervisor will:

- 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, or any water-based activities, identify a higher staff to child ratio to ensure adequate supervision.
- Ensure First Aid and CPR qualifications and requirements are met at all times.

- Provide families with community messages regarding safe water practices.

Educators will:

- Embed water safety messages into the children’s education program.
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied or covered securely after use.
- Ensure water troughs or containers are only filled while in attendance by an adult at all times.
- Ensure no child is left unattended at any time with any body of water.
- Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use.
- Ensuring no cleaning buckets are left in areas accessible to children.
- Prevent children from drinking grey water.
- Provide clean drinking water at all times.

Families will:

- Reinforce water safety practice with children.

Monitor, Evaluation and Review

This policy will be monitored to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and unless deemed necessary through the identification of practice gaps, the preschool will review this Policy every 3 years.

Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review process and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.

In accordance with R. 172 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations, the preschool will ensure that families of children enrolled at the preschool are notified at least 14 days before making any change to a policy or procedure that may have significant

impact on the provision of education and care to any child enrolled at the preschool; a family's ability to utilise the preschool; the fees charged or the way in which fees are collected.

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| Relevant Legislation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Sections 165, 167➤ Education and Care Services National Regulations: Regulation 168(2) (h)&(a)(iii) | | |
| Guidelines, Standards and Frameworks | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety – Standard 2.1 and Standard 2.2➤ Early Years Learning Framework V2.0 (EYLF) (DEEWR, 2022) | | |
| Sources and References | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Kidsafe Australia www.kidsafe.com.au➤ Kids Alive https://kidsalive.com.au/➤ Kids Health https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/water-safety.html➤ 2021, Community Early Learning Australia (CELA). | | |
| Updated | April 2024 | Review Date | 2027 or when procedure, practice or legislation changes. |