

Rationale

To ensure children are safe from water-related incidents.

To provide opportunities for children to explore their natural environment through water play.

Scope

This policy, and its associated documents, applies to the entirety of SDN Children's Services and the entirety of its wholly owned subsidiaries.

This policy applies to SDN services. It covers the following:

- water-based activities that are part of the children's educational program in which children use water (e.g. water tables, water features, washing up buckets)
- water-based excursions, incursions and regular outings that involve children being in or around water as part of the activity (e.g. watercraft, watercourses at the excursion location).
- excursions/regular outings that travel past bodies of water, e.g. walking past ponds
- water utilities and works surrounding the service, e.g. floodways, flood hazard
- access to water and utilities within the service, either accessible or inaccessible, e.g. sinks, garden taps, water tanks.

Policy

All staff members, volunteers and students will be aware and vigilant:

- that swimming excursions/regular outings or entering bodies of water **are not permitted**
- of their roles and responsibilities in implementing the *Water Safety Policy and Procedure*
- of the location of water-based activities and utilities within the learning environment
- of the location of water facilities and utilities surrounding the centre.

The following action will be taken to prevent water-related accidents:

- A water safety risk assessment will be created for each Service and will be reviewed at least every 12 months
- hazard identification (such as water puddles and water-filled containers) and elimination activities
- supervision of children at all times in and around water.

Children will have access to safe drinking water at all times.

Conduct of all excursions, incursions and regular outings, including those involving water-based activities will be in accordance with the *Excursions, Incursions and Regular Outings Procedure*.

Information about water safety in the home/by the pool/at the beach will be made available to families using SDN services.

Related SDN Documents

Policies

- GI-HLP-1.07: Providing a Child Safe Environment
- SD-OP-2.18: Excursions, Incursions and Regular Outings

Procedures

- SD-PRO-2.17-01: Water Safety
- SD-PRO-2.18-01: Excursions, Incursions and Regular Outings

Relevant Legislation/Regulations

- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010, section 167
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, regulations 78(1)(a), 78(2)(a), 100, 102(2), 113 and 168(2)(a)(iii)
 - Schedule 1: National Quality Standard, quality area 2, standards 2.1 to 2.3, elements 2.1.3, 2.2.1, 2.3.1 and 2.3.2

Other References/Related Documents

- National Health and Medical Research Council - www.nhmrc.gov.au
- NSW Department of Health - www.health.nsw.gov.au
- Kidsafe – www.kidsafe.com.au
- Sydney Water – www.sydneywater.com.au
- ACT Government Environment and Planning Directorate – www.environment.act.gov.au/water

WATER SAFETY POLICY		SD-OP-2.17	
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