



Health and Safety

Water Safety

Reviewed: 25/07/2019 Next Review: August 2020

Education and care services regulation/s	Regulation 168 (2)(a) Education and care service must have policies and procedures Regulation 274 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations
NSW Department of Education policy, procedure or guidelines	The following department policy can be accessed from the preschool section of the department's website ; Excursion Policy PD/2004/0010/V07 – Including Excursions Policy Implementation Procedures
National Quality Standard(s)	2.1: Health Each child's health needs are supported 2.2.1: Supervision Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm or any hazard likely to cause injury
Preschool Handbook reference	Preschool Handbook (PDF 7.2MB) – Wellbeing page 45
School policy or procedure, where applicable	Oak Flats Public School Excursions Policy and Care and Supervision Policy. Risk Management Plans may also be developed to identify potential water hazards and develop strategies to protect and minimise risk to children.

The *Education and Care Services National Regulations* (regulation 168) state that a health and safety policy which includes water safety is required by all services and a risk management process undertaken (regulation 101).

To provide connectedness with nature and opportunities for exploration, preschools may choose to have mud and/or water features as a part of the outdoor environment. Staff need to assess the risk to children around water.

Ensuring:

- Adequate supervision at all times.
- Water containers or water features that could be drowning hazards are appropriately covered or inaccessible to children
- Water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. These activities will be supervised at all times and containers or troughs will be emptied onto garden areas after use. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities.
- Pooled water after rain is managed by staff.
- Children do not have access to hot water.
- Educators do not carry or consume hot drinks where children are present.

- Risk assessments for excursions planned near water identify a higher staff to child ratio to ensure adequate supervision.
- First Aid and CPR qualifications and requirements are met at all times.
- Families are provided with community messages regarding safe water practices.
- Buckets used for cleaning are emptied immediately after use. No buckets containing water are left unsupervised in play areas or accessible to children.
- When filling any water vessel with water, that this area is well supervised while children are at play and that all water is drained out when experience is finished.
- Clean drinking water is provided at all times. This water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming. Water containers will be securely sealed. At the end of each day, any water container will be emptied and cleaned thoroughly.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

- 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.
- This policy will be monitored to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and unless deemed necessary through the identification of practice gaps. Oak Flats Public School Preschool will review this policy yearly.
- Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review process and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.