

## **B-6**

# **WATER SAFETY**

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

TWOOSH will plan experiences with appropriate levels of challenge where children will be encouraged to explore, experiment and take appropriate risks, including the use of water as a medium for play in both the outdoor and indoor environment and on excursions ("My Time, Our Place", Outcome 4).

Water use will be closely supervised to ensure the safety of children and educators is a priority. The water will be assessed to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for play and/or consumption. Clean drinking water will be accessible at all times, and stored and maintained hygienically.

Children will be required to apply sunscreen and wear sun smart clothing for a water-based activity, for example, hats and collared shirts (see D-6 Sun Protection). Staff will role model effective sun smart behaviour, for example, seeking shade, wearing sunglasses and hats, and encourage the children to do the same.

### **CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011 (168) (99-103)
- National Quality Standard 2.2, Element 2.2.1
- 'My time, our place' Framework for School Age Care in Australia 2011
- Work, Health & Safety Act 2011
- TWOOSH Policy D-6 Sun Protection
- TWOOSH Policy B-3 Excursion Policy
- TWOOSH Policy D-9 Providing a child safe environment
- TWOOSH Policy D-13 Management of Incident, Injury, Illness & Trauma
- Excursion authorisation records

### **PROCEDURES**

The safety and supervision of children is paramount when in or around water. This relates to water play, excursions near or at bodies of water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the service environment. Children will be adequately supervised at all times during water play experiences. Authorisation forms will be sought prior to excursions including those water-based activities.

#### **a. Water safety in relation to excursions**

The service recognises the risks posed by bodies of water. The service will ensure that every precaution is taken so that children are able to enjoy water-based excursions safely. Risk assessments will be carried out for programmed water-based activities.

The Regulations do not specify a specific educator to child ratio for activities where water is a feature. The number of educators present is to be determined by a risk assessment of the proposed activity, however as a general rule a 1:5 ratio is followed when swimming is involved. It must also be noted that in sections 165, 167 and 169 of the National Law there are clear statements about adequate supervision. A range of factors will determine the

adequacy of supervision, including:

- Numbers, age and abilities of the children participating (parents will need to provide the centre with an indication of their child's swimming ability)
- Number and positioning of educators
- Each child's current activity
- Areas where children are playing, in particular the visibility and accessibility of these areas
- Risks in the environment and experiences provided to children
- Educators' knowledge of each child and each group of children
- The experience, knowledge and skill of each educator
- Supervision provided by the facility eg, life guards. The facility's staff do not count towards ratio however they are responsible for water rescue. Centre staff are to alert life guards in the event of a water emergency.
- Children will be grouped based on swimming abilities and only taken into areas that the child is competent to swim in.

A risk management plan will be undertaken for all excursions near or at bodies of water. Please refer to the service's Excursion Policy B-3.

### ***Definition of a body of water***

The service recognises the following locations as bodies of water:

- Swimming pools and /or water fun parks
- Wading pools
- Lakes/lagoons
- Ponds
- The sea/ocean/bays/harbour
- Creeks
- Dams
- Rivers
- Equipment used by the service that could contain 5 cm or more of water and would allow a child to submerge both nose and mouth at the same time.

### **b. Water safety in relation to water-based activities within the service**

- Water use within the service will be supervised to ensure that the safety of children and educators is a priority.
- The hygienic state of water will be assessed before it is used for children's play.
- Educators will closely supervise all water play. Close supervision means all water play will remain in view of the educator/s at all times, without any obstruction.
- Educators will ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. These activities will be supervised at all times by an educator and containers or troughs will be emptied onto garden areas after use. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water vessels.
- Children will be instructed in the safe use of equipment used during water-based activities, for example, slip and slide, water "guns", bubble machines, etc.
- At the completion of the activity the water containers will be emptied and the containers turned upside down or packed away. Buckets and other vessels will not be left in a position where they might catch rain and collect water. The educator will

## THORNLEIGH WEST OOSH CENTRE

- ensure water is appropriately disposed of before moving away.
- Any buckets of water that may be used for cleaning or hand washing will not be left unsupervised near the children and will be emptied immediately after use.
- Appropriate disposal of water should include consideration of the environment and how the water may be used for a secondary, environmental benefit.
- A daily safety inspection of premises will be undertaken to ensure that all hazards are known and minimised. When a hazard or potential hazard is detected, Educators will complete a risk assessment to address any concerns. If rain occurs during the day, outdoor play areas will be checked for safety prior to the children entering the outdoor environment.

### c. Water safety in relation to drinking water

- Children will have safe, independent access to clean fresh drinking water at all times.
- This water will be checked daily to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consumption.
- Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at a temperature of no more than 43.5° which will be tested and recorded annually.

**Important:** Parents will be notified as soon as practicable if their child is involved in any water-related incident/accident at the Service or while under Service care. Also, details of the incident/accident will be recorded in an Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record (D-13: Management of incident, injury, illness & trauma).

### REVISIONS

4.12.17	Approved by committee
17.09.18	Approved by committee
29.07.19	Approved by committee
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