



Water safety procedure

National Quality Standard Area 2 | Children's health and safety

Children have the right to experience quality education and care in an environment that safeguards and promotes their health, safety and wellbeing.

Purpose

This procedure provides instructions in relation to managing water safety, including during water-based activities, based on a completed risk assessment.

This procedure applies to all staff at this site.



Detail

Children enjoy exploring their learning environments, including playing in/with/around water play, however they generally have little understanding of the danger that it can pose.

Water hazards

A water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth. Water hazards in a child's learning environment can include:

- > sinks, basins, fish tanks, fishbowls, baths
- > swimming pools, portable pools, spas
- > water courses, ponds, sandpits, clam shells
- > water troughs, containers and buckets used for play, animal drinking containers
- > pooling water

Managing water hazards

Our Director regularly completes risk assessments to identify and assess risks associated with any water hazards and water-based activities. These risk assessments must address:

1. **Active supervision** – children are actively supervised at all times when there is a risk of access to any water hazard. Active supervision includes:
 - > direct and constant monitoring of children – within arm's length (within 1 to 2 metres)
 - > careful and intentional positioning
 - > scanning and moving around the environment
 - > listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
 - > observing play and anticipating behaviour
 - > higher adult to child ratios
2. **Eliminating hazards** – water will be emptied immediately after use and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use. All aspects of the environment are designed to ensure adequate drainage of water to avoid pooling.
3. **Restricting access** – compliant fencing/barriers.

Water safety during excursions

Water safety and potential water hazards are considered when undertaking risk assessments for excursions, including routine excursions.

Supporting information

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Approvals

Status: Approved

Version: 0.1

Approved by: Heather Fuss | Director, Ardtornish Children's Centre

Approved by: Governing Council, Ardtornish Children's Centre

Approval date: 25 March 2024

Next review date: 25 March 2027 (must be 3 years from the approved date)

Revision record

(List the revision record in order of most recent updates at the top)

Version: 1.0

Approved by: Name | Director, Site Name

Approved date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Next review date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Amendment(s):