

Policy

Water Safety

Please note, this policy must be read in conjunction with other relevant policy and procedural information provided on the approved provider's website including:
[Preschool water safety procedure \(edi.sa.edu.au\)](http://edi.sa.edu.au)
[Water safety for preschools \(edi.sa.edu.au\)](http://edi.sa.edu.au)

NQS

QA2	2.2.1	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
QA3	3.1.1	Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child.

NATIONAL REGULATIONS

Regs	101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursion
	103	Premises, furniture and equipment to be safe, clean and in good repair
	115	Premises designed to facilitate supervision

EYLF

LO1	Children feel safe, secure and supported
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Who is affected by this policy?

- Children
- Families
- Educators
- Governing Council

Aims

To ensure that the centre will prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to water hazards, children's safety and wellbeing will be protected in and around water through supervision and prevention and be promoted through the availability of clean, hygienic water for play and drinking.

Purpose

The purpose of our policy is to ensure that strategies are in place to manage water safety, including water-based activities hence reducing the risk of accident or injury. The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the preschool environment.

Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

Water hazards

A water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth.

There are a number of water hazards in children's learning environments including:

- sinks, basins, fish tanks/bowls
- water courses, mud kitchen, sandpits, clam shells
- water troughs, containers and buckets used for play, animal drinking containers
- cleaning buckets and materials
- pooling water

Implementation

At Loxton Preschool Centre we aim to keep everyone safe around water.

To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to watercourse, water troughs and other water hazards the Nominated Supervisor will:

1. Provide guidance and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water.
2. Ensure work, health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and play.
3. Complete risk assessments that identify and assess risks associated with any water hazards and water-based activities. Ensure staff use the hazard and corrective action reporting function to report and assess water hazards. This includes rating the level of risk and corrective actions. Risk assessments must address:

Active Supervision – children must be 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 1-2m)
- Careful intentional positioning
- Scanning and moving around the area
- Listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
- Observing play and anticipating behaviour

- Higher adult to child ratios, noting family day care standards apply for swimming activities

Eliminating Hazards – water must 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 must be designed to ensure adequate drainage of water to avoid pooling.

Restricting Access – fencing or barriers must be compliant

To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to the mud kitchen, water troughs and other water hazards, the Centre and staff will:

1. Not install a swimming pool or wading pool on the premises.
2. Closely supervise children near any water at all times, never leave children alone near any water. This involves careful and intentional positioning, scanning and moving around the environment, listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise, observing play and anticipating behaviour, maintaining adult/child ratios.
3. Teach children about staying safe in and around water.
4. Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level AFTER first Group Time when young siblings have left. Not leave buckets, water play trough or any other water hazards unsupervised in the preschool premises. Empty after use and BEFORE end of day Group Time and store in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use.
5. Store equipment to prevent collection of water. Check Outdoor Area after watering or rain and empty water that has collected in holes or containers.
6. Ensure buckets of water used during cleaning, after craft or throughout the day are filled immediately before use, supervised by an adult while in use, and emptied immediately and cleaned thoroughly after use.
7. Provide clean drinking water at all times.
8. Ensure hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the maximum temperature of 45 degrees C. Thermostatic valves are to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber.
9. Ensure that NO hot drinks or hot food leave the kitchen area without being securely covered to prevent the risk of spillage, scalding or burning.
10. Restrict access to kitchen area when unattended by adults.
11. Conduct a risk assessment prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water.
12. Conduct risk assessments prior to including water-based activities in the learning programme, including rating the level of risk and corrective actions.
13. Ensure that at all times, when children are present, there must be at least one educator with a current approved first aid qualification, on the premises. It is best practice for all educators to hold current approved First Aid Certificates. All educators are required to keep first aid qualifications up to date.

Sources

- Early Years Learning Framework (v2.0, 2022)
- National Quality Standard
- Department for Education Preschool Water Safety Procedure [Preschool water safety procedure \(edi.sa.edu.au\)](https://www.edi.sa.edu.au/preschool-water-safety-procedure)
- [Water safety for preschools \(edi.sa.edu.au\)](https://www.edi.sa.edu.au/water-safety-for-preschools)
- Department for Education Camps and Excursions Guidelines for Schools and Preschools
- Kidsafe Water Safety in Education and Care Settings
- Consultation process completed and feedback included from children, staff, families and Governing Council members

Review

The policy will be reviewed bi-annually.

Review will be conducted by:

- Governing Council
- Educators/Employees
- Families
- Interested Parties

Document History	Version	Approved Date	Description of Change	Next Review Date
	1.0	01/12/2016	Policy Developed	01/12/2018
Reviewed	2.0	15/08/2019	Updated in line with NQS changes	15/08/2021
Reviewed	3.0	29/06/2021	Updated in line with Department For Education policy changes	29/06/2023
Reviewed	4.0	04/12/2023	All links have been verified Updated in line with Early Years Learning Framework (v2.0, 2022) and our DfE Preschool Water Safety Procedure	04/12/2025

Approved by Governing Council 04/12/2023 Director's Signature 