

WATER SAFETY PROCEDURE

Purpose

Each site must have a procedure in place that outlines how they will manage water safety, including during water based activities based on a completed risk assessment. Risk assessments are required to be completed that identify and assess risks associated with any water hazards and water-based activities.

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

Water hazards in children's learning environments include:

- sinks, basins, fish tanks, fish bowls, 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

Implementation

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 – 2 metres)
- Careful and intentional positioning of water based learning activities
- Scanning and moving around the area
- Listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
- Observing play and anticipating behaviour
- Higher adult/child ratios, noting family day care standards apply for swimming activities.

Eliminating hazards

- Water must be emptied immediately after use and containers stored in a manner that prevents filling with water when not in use
- All aspects of the environment must be designed to ensure adequate drainage of water to avoid pooling
- Ensure that all containers that are used for water play are clean
- Set water tubs up on non-slippery surfaces in case of spillage

Restricting access

- Compliant fencing or barrier where required
- Ensure that children are never alone in the outdoor area when there are water hazards and water-based activities
- Visiting families with young children will be made aware of any water hazards and water-based activities

If attending an excursion include water safety in the risk assessment and ensure ratios meet the assessment and children's needs / abilities. Extra staff and/or parents/volunteers may be required

This information has been extracted from the

[Kidsafe and Department for Education water safety in education and care settings information sheet](#)