



MANAGING WATER HAZARDS PROCEDURE

Version: 01

Effective Date: 13 February 2025

Responsibility of: Principal

Review Date: 13 February 2027

Target Audience: Staff and Parents

INTRODUCTION

Zuccoli Preschool will provide children with water experiences to promote their development and understanding of the natural environment.

Zuccoli Preschool aims to create a stimulating environment for children to explore and discover their world and has a responsibility under the *Education and Care Services (National Uniform Legislation) Act* (the Act) and *Education and Care Services Regulations* (the Regulations) to ensure their health, safety and wellbeing is maintained at all times.

DEFINITIONS

Adequate supervision, for the purpose of these guidelines, is maintaining sight and hearing of all children at all times children are playing with water and being in a position to respond to individual needs and to intervene immediately when necessary.

Potential hazard, for the purpose of these guidelines, refers to risks associated with water, such as swimming pools, baths, water storage containers, including vessels used for water play activities, ponds and containers with poor drainage that allow water to pool.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Principal will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that the environment and equipment is maintained
- Risk assessments are completed for all water-based activities
- Adequate first aid is provided for students

Preschool teachers and educators are responsible for:

- Ensuring that children are adequately supervised at all times during water play
- Providing explicit lessons about water safety messages
- Completing risk assessment where relevant

Parents/families are responsible for:

- Providing spare clothing for their child in case of getting wet
- Providing their children with appropriate water and sun safe clothing on specific water days
- Providing opportunities for swim safety and swimming lessons for their child using the government provided swim vouchers out of school time

PROCEDURES

Zuccoli Preschool has various procedures in place to ensure students' water play is safe. Risk management and assessment plans will be developed where necessary.

Maintaining Adequate Supervision

Preschool staff will maintain active supervision, ensuring children are within sight during water play

Manage Water Containers

Ensure that water containers are:

- supervised
- not filled too deep
- water containers and sinks are emptied when not in use
 - emptied containers that can be filled to 30cm or above in depth are not left outside unattended
 - permanent plug holes in fixed outdoor water play tubs are kept clear/unblocked to prevent water collection or pooling when not in use

Teach Safe Water Behaviours

- Discuss safe behaviour around water
- Establish rules and encourage all children to play safely
- Model and reinforce safe behaviours
- Discuss what to do if in trouble in or around water

Risk Posed by Water Play

- Conduct a risk assessment for water play activities
- Encourage parents to exclude their child from water play if sick
- Request parents cover cuts and abrasions with waterproof dressings to reduce the spread of infectious diseases such as Melioidosis and Molluscum, which are common in the Northern Territory
- Ensure sunscreen has been applied prior to water play
- Set up activities in shaded areas as much as possible
- Ensure sun safe clothing, including a shirt that covers shoulders, chest and back and a wide brim hat are worn during all water play activities.

Store Wet Clothing or Linen

- Place children's wet clothing into a waterproof bag to go home
- Encourage parents to provide a bag for wet play clothing
- If wet clothing or towels are left at preschool, staff will hang to dry

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Zuccoli Preschool Managing Water Hazards Policy
- Water based risk assessments

REGULATED LEGISLATION, POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Legislation

The Education and Care Services (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011 (NT) is the legislation that adopts the National Law in the NT. The Schedule to the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 (Vic) sets out the National Law:

- Section 165 – Offence to inadequately supervise children
- Section 167 – Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards
- Regulation 12 – Meaning of serious incident
- Regulation 101 – Conduct a risk assessment for excursion
- Regulation 168 – Education and care services must have policies and procedures o - -
 - (2)(a)(iii) water safety, including safety during water-based activities
- Regulation 170 – Policies and procedures to be followed
- Regulation 171 – Policies and procedures to be kept available
- Regulation 172 – Notification of change to policies and procedures
- Regulation 176 – Time to notify certain information to Regulatory Authority Swimming Pool Safety Act 2004

Department of Education and Training policy, guidelines and procedures

For Department of Education policy, guidelines and procedures, go to the department's School policies website to access the following policies:

- NT Department of Education School Swimming, Water Safety Programs and Aquatic Activities Policy
- NT Department of Education School Swimming, Water Safety Programs and Aquatic Activities Procedures
- NT Department of Education Managing Water Hazards in Preschool Policy and Procedure

National Quality Standards

The following Elements of the National Quality Standard apply to this policy and procedure:

Quality Area 1 – Educational program and practice o Element 1.2.1 – Educators are deliberate, purposeful and thoughtful in their decisions and actions.

Quality Area 2 – Children's health and safety o Element 2.2.1 – At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

Quality Area 7 – Governance and leadership o Element 7.1.2 – Systems are in place to manage risk and enable the effective management and operation of a quality service.