



Dara School

Out of School Hours Care

Water Safety Policy

WATER SAFETY OSHC POLICY

1. BACKGROUND

Water activities are a significant part of Australian life and provide children with opportunities to access a variety of activities for experience, learning, and fun. However, all bodies of water present a significant hazard and require Service educators to ensure increased vigilance around them to ensure the safety of children.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, educators, management, and visitors of the Service.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

The Dara School OSHC Service recognises the risks posed by bodies of water and takes the safety of children and education involved in water-based activities and around bodies of water seriously. The service will ensure that every precaution is taken so that children can enjoy water-based activities safely. Risk Assessments will be carried out for programmed water-based activities and the outcomes will underpin the educator-to-child ratio for the activities.

The Service recognises the following locations are bodies of water:

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

4. IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 General

Dara School OSHC shall ensure the safety of children around bodies of water by:

- Undertaking a risk assessment that will determine the required educator-to-child ratio for the proposed activity.
- Ensuring at all times there are educators on duty who hold an approved first aid qualification (that includes current anaphylaxis and asthma management training).
- Demonstrating a preference for venues that provide additional supervision in the form of lifeguards.
- Ensuring educators are placed in positions that allow them to directly and actively supervise any child accessing a body of water.
- Avoid any venue with a body of water where sufficient precautions cannot be taken to ensure the safety of children.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 - The Director is responsible for -

- Actively looking for venues that provide additional support in the form of lifeguards, when the venue contains or has access to a body of water.
- Conducting a risk assessment on any venue the service plans to visit, to ensure that the Service can provide appropriate levels of supervision and that the risk does not exceed the Service's ability to maintain the safety of children.
- Ensuring a risk assessment is carried out on any activity the Service sets up that allows children to access a body of water.
- Ensuring educators position themselves in the environment so that every child is always within sight of an adult and that supervision is direct and vigilant; and that the educators rotate their position in the environment regularly to allow for movement and to maintain vigilance.
- On a swimming excursion, having some educators designated to supervise children from within the body of water (See excursion policy).

6. OTHER OSHC POLICIES OR DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THIS POLICY

H15 Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness OSHC Policy

H8 Interactions with Children OSHC Policy

A9 Staffing OSHC Policy

H13 Excursions OSHC Policy

H12 Risk assessment OSHC Policy

7. RELATIONSHIP TO REGULATIONS

National Quality Standards (NQS)

Quality Area 2 Children's Health and Safety

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Regulation 168 Education and care services must have policies and procedures

Regulation 101 Conduct risk assessment for all excursions

8. REFERENCES

Department of Education Camps and Excursions Guidelines, accessed on 12 February 2022 at www.decd.sa.gov.au/pilociesa-z

Department of Education Water Safety Procedure for Preschools, accessed on 12 February 2022 from www.decd.sa.gov.au/polociesa-z

Royal Life Saving fact sheets, accessed on 12 February 2022 from www.royallifesaving.com.au/www/html/156-fact-sheets.asp

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