



East Adelaide School Out of School Hours Care

Water Safety Policy

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Last Review November 2020
Next Review: November 2023

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. It is acknowledged that children can drown in as little as 5cm of water.

The Education and Care Services National Regulations do not specify a specific educator to child ratio for activities where water is the feature. The number of educators' present is to be determined by a risk assessment of the proposed activity. It must also be noted that in sections 101 (2) b – (Supervision during excursion) and 168 (Policies and procedures are required in relation to providing a child safe environment) of the National Law there are clear statements about adequate supervision. The adequacy of supervision shall be determined by a range of factors that include:

- Numbers, ages and abilities of the children
- Number and positioning of educators
- Each child's current activity
- Areas where the children are playing, in particular the visibility and accessibility of these areas
- Risks in the environments and experiences provided to children
- Educators' knowledge of each child and each group of children
- The experience, knowledge and skill of each educator

2. Relationships to Other Policy/Regulation

Regulations	168 101 (2) b
National Quality Standards	2.3
Other Policies/Service Documentation	Risk Assessment Policy Sun Protection Policy Excursions Policy Child-Safe Environments Policy
Other Legislation/Guidelines	Camps and Excursions Guidelines Where preschool age children are present, the service should refer to the DfE Water Safety Procedures for Preschools



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3. Definitions

DfE – Department for Education

4. Policy Statement on Water Safety

The East Adelaide OSHC service recognises the risks posed by bodies of water and takes safety of children and educators involved in water-based activities and around water seriously. The service will ensure that every precaution is taken so that children are able to 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.

4.1 General:

The service 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 there are educators present that have a current, approved first aid qualification including CPR.
- 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 adequately supervise any child accessing a body of water.
- Avoiding any venue with a body of water where sufficient precautions cannot be taken to ensure the safety of children.
- Service leaders will provide an educator to child ratio of 1:5 for all water-based excursions.
- Children under the age of 5 will be required to remain with arm's length of a service educator at all times when surrounded by water.
- When water activity is scheduled by the service, the booking form will request from the parent/guardian details on the level of experience of the child regarding water safety.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 The Director is responsible for:

- Actively looking for venues that provide additional supervision in the form of life guards, where 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 is able to maintain 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.



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- Ensuring educators position themselves in the environment so that every child is within sight of an adult at all times and that supervision is direct and vigilant and that educators rotate their position on a regular basis to allow for movement and to maintain vigilance.
- On a swimming excursion, having some educators designated to supervise children from within a body of water.

6. References

1. Camps and Excursions Guidelines at <https://edi.sa.edu.au/library/document-library/controlled-policies/camps-and-excursions-policy>
2. Water Safety Procedure for Preschools at <https://edi.sa.edu.au/operations-and-management/school-preschool-and-fdc-admin/preschool-and-early-childhood-management/water-safety-for-preschools>
3. Royal Life Saving fact sheets at <https://www.royallifesaving.com.au/schools>