



Water Safety Policy

Aim

At SPCP we recognise that water can pose a risk to children and as such take steps to minimise this risk through our actions.

Policy

The learning environment - We recognise that children only need a small amount of water to drown in and as such implement the following risk minimisation approaches:

- When planning water play experiences with a trough or buckets we will maintain direct supervision at all times. If needing to leave the area the educator will ask for another educator to supervise the play. If the children have finished playing with the experience the educator monitoring the experience will tip out the water, cover the water, or remove the water and place it out of the children's reach.
- When planning water play experiences with free flow water we will monitor for any puddles or collections of water and tend to these so they are not collecting pools of water in the children's environment.
- During morning set up after periods of rain we will remove large puddles with a broom to disperse the water. We will also drain any collected water from areas such as the sand pit cover.
- No cleaning containers such as mop buckets or warm soapy water will be left unattended in the environment. If an educator needs to leave an area during cleaning to tend to another issue they will place the container of water behind a locked door, tip it out, or have another educator watch it for them if ratio permits.
- Risk assessments will be carried out around water play activities to ensure proper safety precautions have been taken.

Excursions – When planning excursions we will, where possible, minimise the children's access to bodies of water. In addition to this the following steps will be taken to minimise risks:

- We will discuss the importance of staying safe with the children prior to the excursion and go through the strategies outlined below to ensure they are aware of how to stay safe during the excursion.
- Where children are going somewhere with water (e.g. a lake/creek/dam etc.) we will increase supervision to 1 adult to 2 children for children under 3 and 1 adult per 4 children for children 3 and above. This will support adequate supervision and hand holding.



Sutherland Presbyterian Church Preschool

- We will use markers such as witches hats to identify a safe zone for the children and remind them to play inside this space.

- Where the excursion involves engaging with the water we will take small groups of children to ensure supervision is easier and risk can be minimised.
- Risk assessments and permission forms will outline to families the increased risk around this so that they are aware of what they are giving permission for.

General safety – We recognise the importance of building awareness around water safety and will achieve this in the following ways:

- We will share information with families regarding water safety through communication such as emails.
- We will discuss this as a team during reviewing this policy.
- We will identify any individual children’s needs around water safety and create a plan to ensure they have risk minimisation strategies in place.
- All educators will have a first aid qualification in line with the ACECQA requirements to be able to respond to any incidents that may arise.

Source

ACECQA Water Safety Policy Guidelines - <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/media/31991>

Compliance evidence

Education and Care Services National Regulations (2023) 115, 168

National Quality Standards 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 6.1, 7.1, 7.2

Date of last review: New policy

Date of current review: Jan 2024

Date of next review: Jan 2026

Approved by: Lisa Collins/ Barbara Black