



Water Safety Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

The aim of this policy is to ensure the management of water safety including safety during any water-based activities that occur while children are under the care of Annie's Nannys and Babysitting Agency.

Annie's Nannys and Babysitting Agency is committed to:

- Providing opportunities for children to explore their natural environment including through water play.
- Ensuring that children are protected from the risks associated with drowning or non-fatal drowning experiences.
- Ensuring that curriculum planning incorporates water safety awareness.
- Providing information to nannies, babysitters, parents or guardian, volunteers and others within the agency about water safety.

This policy applies to the Agency Director, nannies, babysitters, volunteers, parents or guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities, or services provided by Annie's Nannys and Babysitting Agency including during off site excursions and activities.

The supervision and safety of children with and around water is of utmost importance.

Learning spaces and environments should offer an array of possibilities and connect children with natural materials. Water is one experience that offers children sensory-rich, open-ended experiences that engage children's curiosity and imagination. Children may encounter these resources in the service environment and/or when on excursions. These experiences, especially those conducted with near water, will be carefully supervised ensuring the safety of children and adults.

Water safety relates to access to water in the area in which care is being provided and while out on excursions as well as the availability of drinking water for children.

It is essential that nannies and babysitters remain vigilant their supervision of children in and around water and constantly be alert to potential risks in everyday practice in the learning environment.

Drowning is a serious concern when it comes to the death of toddlers and infants. Non-fatal drowning incidents can still result in permanent brain damage and disability. Knowledge of potential hazards associated with water will assist nannies and babysitters to provide a safe, stimulating environment for preschool children.

Drowning hazards include large bodies of water such as swimming pools, rivers, creeks, dams and ponds. Smaller bodies of water including nappy buckets, water container, pet water bowls and poor drainage which allows water to collect can also present drowning hazards for young children. Children can drown in as little water as a few centimetres of water.

The Keep Watch education program is a public program run by Royal Life Saving Society Australia and is aimed at preventing the drowning deaths of children under the age of 5 years in all aquatic location. The program has four key actions:

1. Supervise children constantly around water.
2. Restrict access to water hazards by using child-proof barriers and fences.
3. Provide water awareness training to children

4. Resuscitation saves lives – ensure that staff have completed first aid training.

RELATED LEGISLATION

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*: Section 167
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*: Regulations 101(2), 168(2)(a)(iii)
- *National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety*
 - Standard 2.3: Each child is protected
 - Element 2.3.2: Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury

DEFINITIONS

Adequate supervision: Supervision entails all children (individuals and groups) in all areas of the service being in sight and/or hearing of the educator/nanny at all times including during toileting, sleep, rest and transition routines. Supervision contributes to protecting children from hazards that may emerge in play including hazards created by the equipment used.

Approved first aid qualification: A list of approved first aid qualifications, anaphylaxis management and emergency asthma management training is published on the ACECQA website: www.cecqa.gov.au

Hazard: A source or situation with a potential for harm in terms of human injury or ill health, damage to property, damage to the environment or a combination of these.

Notifiable incident: An incident involving workplace health and safety that is required by law to be reported to WorkSafe SA. Notification is required for incidents that result in death or serious injury/illness, or dangerous occurrences.

An incident resulting in the death of a child, or an injury, trauma or illness for which the attention of a registered medical practitioner, emergency services or hospital is sought or should have been sought. This also includes an incident in which a child appears to be missing, cannot be accounted for, is removed from the service in contravention of the regulations or is mistakenly locked in/out of the service premises.

A serious incident should be documented as soon as possible and within 24 hours of the incident. The Regulatory Authority must be notified within 24 hours of a serious incident occurring at the service. Records are required to be retained until the child is 25 years of age

Water hazard: Can lead to drowning or non-fatal drowning incidences. Drowning hazards include large bodies of water such as swimming pools, rivers, creeks, dams and ponds. Smaller bodies of water, including nappy buckets, water containers, pet water bowls and poor drainage which allows water to collect can also present drowning hazards for young children.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Agency Director (Annie's Nannys and Babysitting Agency) is responsible for:

- Ensuring that children are always adequately supervised when near water hazards
- Conducting a risk assessment in relation to any water hazards on or near the premises in which care is being provided that may be accessible to children
- Ensuring permission is obtained from parents/guardians for an excursion to a location where there is a water hazard
- Ensuring that water hazards and risks associated with water-based activities are considered in a risk assessment prior to conducting excursions and other offsite events
- Conducting a regular safety check of the premises in which the agency is providing care
- Ensuring any water hazards that are not able to be adequately supervised always are isolated from children by a child-resistant barrier or fence (particularly large bodies of water including swimming pools, rivers, ponds etc.)
- Ensuring that all nannies and babysitters have a current approved first aid qualification (refer to definitions)
- Ensuring that details of current approved first aid qualifications (refer to definitions) are filed with each staff member's record

- Reporting serious incidents (refer to definitions)
- Reporting notifiable incidents (refer to definitions) to WorkSafe SA
- Ensuring that water safety awareness is embedded in the curriculum
- Providing current information to parents about water safety.

Nannies and Babysitters are responsible for:

- Providing adequate supervision (refer to Definitions) at all times.
- Undertaking a risk assessment prior to an excursion to a location where there is a significant water hazard
- Adjusting supervision strategies to suit the activities being undertaken.
- Obtaining parental permission for an excursion to a location where there is a water.
- Maintaining a current approved first aid qualification (refer to Definitions).
- Ensuring gates and other barriers restricting access to water hazards are always closed and that fences are always kept clear.
- Ensuring that containers of water (including nappy buckets and cleaning buckets) are sealed with child-proof lids.
- Ensuring wading/paddling pools, water play containers and portable water courses are emptied immediately after each use and stored in a manner that prevents the collection of water when not in use.
- Checking the outdoor learning environment at the beginning and end of each day for puddles or filled containers that could pose a potential risk to small children after heavy rain.
- Providing water safety education as a part of the service's program.
- Informing the Agency Director immediately if any serious or notifiable incidents (refer to Definitions) occur at the service.
- Ensuring that water play reciprocals including water courses are always supervised.
- Ensuring that water play reciprocals are emptied at the end of each session.

Parents/ guardians are responsible for:

- Ensuring that doors, gates and barriers including playground gates are closed after entry or exit to prevent access to water hazards.
- Informing themselves about water safety.
- Ensuring their children understand the risks associated with water.
- Recognising when resuscitation is required and obtaining assistance.
- Considering undertaking approved first aid qualifications as resuscitation skills save lives.