



Marton Activity Centre

MAC Policy

WATER SAFETY

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Quality Area	: MACQA2
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The safety and supervision of children is paramount when in or around water. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the Service environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

POLICY STATEMENT

To ensure the safety and supervision of children in and around water. This includes water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in Marton Activity Centre's environment.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the children, families, staff, management and visitors of Marton Activity Centre.

PROCEDURE

MANAGEMENT / NOMINATED SUPERVISOR / RESPONSIBLE PERSON WILL:

- Provide direction and education to Educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety and supervision in and around water.
- Ensure health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and water play.

- Ensure premises adjacent to or providing access to, any water hazards that are not able to be adequately supervised at all times (e.g. dams, swimming pool) are to be isolated from children by a child resistant barrier or fence.
- Conduct a risk assessment in accordance with the requirements prior to taking children on an excursion, which is near water.
- Ensure at least one Educator who holds a current approved first aid qualification is in attendance at all times.
- Display a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) guide near any swimming pool, wading pool, or body of water.
- Ensure water hazards and water play are always highly supervised.
- Ensure hot water is inaccessible to children.

EDUCATORS WILL:

- Supervise children near water at all times.
- Never leave children alone near any water.
- Ensure fish / frog ponds and water features that are not able to be adequately supervised at all times and/or pose an unacceptable risk to children are guarded or effective barriers are in place.
- Complete a daily Safety Inspection of premises to ensure that all hazards are known and minimised. When a hazard or potential hazard is detected, Educators will complete a risk assessment to address any concerns and children will be excluded from the area until the hazard has been rectified.
- Utilise water activities in appropriate weather as part of the planned program.
- Allow the children the opportunity to experiment with water, sand, and mixing materials.
- Monitor all taps on the premises that children have access to and ensure they are turned off securely when not in use.
- Safely cover or make inaccessible to children all water containers, e.g. nappy buckets.
- After rainfall or watering gardens check for and empty any water that has collected in holes or containers.
- Ensure water troughs are not used without a stand to keep it off the ground.
- Ensure children remain standing on the ground whilst using the water trough.
- Ensure buckets of water for soaking toys or clothing are inaccessible to children.
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied into the garden areas after each use.
- Ensure laundry, storerooms and Educator areas have Staff only signs on doors to remind adults to close doors behind them.
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water.
- Comply / Adhere to Water Restrictions

- Flushing of worms is done at 5pm Friday, supervised by Staff away from Children. Flushing of worms is left over weekend and packed away Monday Mornings at 6:45am before Children arrive at Centre.

OPERATIONAL SAFETY:

- Water tanks will be labelled with “Do Not Drink” signage and the children will be supervised in this area to make sure they are not accessing this water for drinking.
- Educators will discuss with the children the use of water tank water and how it differs from drinking water.
- Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5° which will be tested annually.
- Water for pets at the Service must be changed daily and only be accessible to children when educators are present.

CONSIDERATIONS

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS (NQS)

Quality Area 2: Children’s Health & Safety		
2.1.2	Health practices & procedures	Effective illness & injury management & hygiene practices are promoted.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision to ensure children are protected from harm & hazard.
2.2.2	Incident & emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS AND NATIONAL LAW

Education and Care Services National Regulations and National law NSW		
Reg	101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursion
Reg	115	Premises designed to facilitate supervision
Reg	122	Educators must be working directly with children to be included in ratios
Reg	168	Education and care services must have policies and procedures

SOURCE

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority (2014)
Guide to the Education & Care services National Law & the Education & Care Services National Regulations (2017)
ECA Code of Ethics
Guide to the National Quality Standard (2017)
Revised National Quality Standards
NSW Department of Health: www.health.nsw.gov.au
National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC): www.nhmrc.gov.au

SERVICE POLICIES/ DOCUMENTATION

Policies	
Educational Program	Physical Environment
Health and Safety	Supervision