

Children's Health & Safety

Water Safety Policy.

Our Vision.

To give every child **the best start in life.**

Our Mission.

To deliver high quality childcare and exciting learning opportunities for every child, giving them a head start as they prepare for school.

Our Values.

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| Care | We take care of the children entrusted to us and our dedicated staff. All are appreciated and diversity is valued. |
| Quality | We maintain the highest standards in care and safety and provide exceptional early years education. |
| Service | We provide exceptional service and are integral to supporting parents bringing up children. |
| Value | We provide outstanding value for our families. |



Busy Bees Early Learning Australia will ensure that every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury, especially when children are around water or involved in water-based activities.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2 – Children's Health and Safety	
2.2 - Safety	2.2.1 - Supervision
	2.2.2 - Incident and Emergency Management
QUALITY AREA 3 – Physical Environment	
3.1 - Design	3.1.1 - Design
3.2 - Use	3.2.3 - Environmentally Responsible
QUALITY AREA 4 – Staffing Arrangements	
4.1 – Staffing Arrangements	4.1.1 – Organisation of Educators

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW AND REGULATIONS

Part 6	Operating an Education and Care Service (Law - 165, 167)
Part 4.2	Children's Health and Safety (Reg - 101, 102)
Part 4.3	Physical Environment (Reg - 115)
Part 4.4	Staffing Arrangements (Reg - 122, 123)
Part 4.7	Governance and Leadership (Reg - 168, 170)

RELATED POLICIES

Excursion and Incursion Policy	Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
First Aid Policy	Sun Protection Policy
Health and Hygiene Policy	Supervision Policy

PURPOSE

This policy aims 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 the Service environment.

SCOPE

Children, Busy Bees Employees, Management, Visitors and Families

POLICY

Drowning is the leading cause of death for children aged 1-4 years in Australia. While most drowning occurs in backyard swimming pools, it is important to be aware that children can drown in as little as 5cm of water. Therefore, Busy Bees employees will ensure health and safety practices are implemented and incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and water play experiences.

Children will always be closely supervised during water-based activities and will never to be left alone where water is present. Risk assessments will be developed that identify management strategies of water at the Service to ensure that children can experience the natural environment and engage in water play safely. This will include adding a water lanyard to the outdoor supervision plan.

Water safety messages will be embedded in educational programs and children will be provided opportunities to experiment with water through a variety of water-based activities, which will be appropriate to weather conditions. Any equipment used i.e., wading pools, troughs, tubs, or buckets will be emptied immediately after use and stored in a way that prevents the collection of water, or where required, covered, and made inaccessible to children.

Employees will encourage children to use water effectively, discuss the differences between tap and tank water and ensure water is being saved and reused where appropriate.

Regular safety checks will be conducted to ensure any hazards are known and minimised. Any hazard detected will be documented and action will be taken immediately to correct the concern. This will also include the position of water activities to prevent slips and falls, i.e., position active **not** on a slippery surface such as concrete.

In order to minimise harm from hot water, any warm water around children will be tested to ensure that it is not too hot to cause scalding, hot drinks are not permitted in any care environment, and hot water systems storage should be set at 60°C to prevent the formation of Legionella bacteria and a temperature control device is fitted to lower the temperature of the water coming out of the taps to no higher than 45°C where possible.

Water for pets at the Service will be changed daily and only accessible to children when educators are present.

Water Safety Outside the Service Premises

Busy Bees Early Learning Services do not provide excursions that involve children swimming as we are unable to provide sufficient educators that have recognised experience in water safety and rescue procedures. However, from time to time, there may be an excursion planned where there could be a body of water e.g., lake, pond, or creek. The following will be considered when planning for excursions that are near bodies of water:

- The planning of such excursions will be conducted in conjunction with Busy Bees Early Learning's Excursion Policy, including risk assessments and adult to child ratios for adequate supervision, which should be higher for experiences/excursions planned near bodies of water.
- Water safety messages are built into the children's education programs
- Supervision near bodies of water on excursions is maintained by educators who hold a first aid certificate which includes CPR

Excursion Authorisations will clearly state if bodies of water will be present and will include added safety precautions to ensure families are informed about the risk assessment procedures and about community messages regarding water safety for families to share with their children prior to the excursion.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) guidelines will be displayed near any water.

Adequate supervision affects all areas of Quality Education and Care and should be always considered as high priority.

SOURCES

[ACECQA](#)

[National Quality Standard](#)

[Education and Care services National Regulations](#)

[Education and Care Service National Law Act 2010](#)

[Early Childhood Australia](#)

[Supervision of Children – Victorian Government Fact Sheet](#)

[ACECQA Excursion Risk Management Plan Template](#)

[Hot Water Safety](#)

[Swim and survive - Water Safety](#)

[Royal Life Saving](#)

VERSION CONTROL

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years and/or in line with legislation and organisation requirements.

Version	Date	Owner	Responsibility	Change Description
1	01/10/2023	Chief Pedagogy & Safeguarding Officer	Policy Development Officer	Replace all previous versions

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