



## Procedure related to water safety, including safety during any water-based activities

Associated National Quality Standard	Education and Care Services National Law or Regulation	Associated Department policy, procedure or guideline
2.2	101	Excursions policy

Our preschool and early intervention will follow best practice guidelines to implement The *Education and Care Services National Regulations* (regulation 168) which state that a health and safety policy which includes water safety is required by all services and a risk management process undertaken (regulation 101).

Punchbowl Public School's philosophy places emphasis on play based-learning and incorporating nature into the environment and learning experiences. To provide opportunities for connectedness with nature and sensory exploration educators encourage children to use water in their play and learning. When water play is in use we exercise precautions consistent with safety regulations and risk management processes.

### Daily Safety

Our daily safety check procedure includes checking for water hazards. Educators are to check the indoors and outdoors for things such as buckets of water left by cleaners or any pooled water which may have gathered after rain.

Mop buckets used for cleaning must be emptied and stored safely when not in use. These should be placed in the laundry which is locked.

Children do not have access to hot water.

Educators are not to carry or consume hot drinks where children are present.

First Aid and CPR qualifications of educators are always up to date. A record of this is kept on the school server and a printed copy can be found in the staff qualifications folder. CPR charts are located in prominent positions visible in the indoor and outdoor environment.

## Adequate Supervision

Educators ensure that children are kept safe from water hazards, including water containers. Activities using the provision of water require adequate supervision of an educator. These activities constitute a possible drowning hazard.

Once the children enter the preschool at opening time the area will be adequately supervised by an educator. Water play is emptied into the garden to water the plants as soon as the activity has ceased.

Water troughs will only be filled when an educator is able to supervise by staying within arm's reach of the children, as they are under the age of 5 (KidSafe NSW).

## Excursions

If an excursion is to be held near a body of water an excursion risk management plan will clearly state if the transit or destination features a body of water.

There is no specified adult to child ratio required for excursions, though after the risk assessment has been conducted, a decision will be made regarding the required number of adults to ensure the children's safety and adequate supervision. Additional adults beyond the 1 to 10 ratio, don't need to hold an approved qualification, for example, if it is determined four adults are required to adequately supervise the children, the teacher, SLSO and two parent volunteers will suffice. As part of this process, consideration needs to be given to the behaviour or developmental needs of individual children.

## Education and Family Information

Families are provided with community messages and access to our procedure regarding safe water practices. Water safety messages are embedded into the children's education program. Educators teach 'Kids Alive do the Five' program throughout the year which looks at water dangers around the pool, home, beach and the farm. Families and educators can access the kids alive link from our school website.

The five key safety messages are:

- Fence the pool
- Shut the gate
- Teach your kids to swim
- Supervise, watch your mates
- Learn how to resuscitate.

## Resources

Leading and Operating Department Preschool Guidelines

<https://kidsalive.com.au/>

[KidSafe NSW Inc. - Water Safety](#)