

Rationale

Drowning continues to be one of the biggest killers of Australian children. Every year a number of children are killed and hundreds more are rescued from near drowning situations. The most common factor in childhood drowning is lack of supervision. A child can drown in as little as a few centimetres of water. Items such as nappy buckets, sinks, pet drinking bowls, ponds, pools, water features and water tanks are potential drowning hazards.

Kidsafe

Children are adventurous and enjoy exploring their environments. At our preschool water play is an important part of children's healthy growth, learning, wellbeing and development and we create a learning environment that fosters a sense of curiosity, wonder and awe. Educators also ensure that effective precautions are put in place to safeguard children during any water play experiences and incorporate water safety awareness into the educational program.

The Education and Care Services National Regulations require approved providers to ensure their services have policies and procedures in place for managing water safety, including safety during any water-based activities. This procedure outlines Mawson Lakes Preschool's practices in line with the Department for Education's [Preschool water safety procedure \(edi.sa.edu.au\)](https://www.edi.sa.edu.au/preschool-water-safety-procedure) and the [Education and Care Services National Regulations 168 \(2\) \(iii\)](https://www.edi.sa.edu.au/education-and-care-services-national-regulations-168-2-iii)

Educators will

- Ensure that there is adequate supervision provided at all times when there is water play experiences available at preschool
- Assess each child's circumstances to identify any known risk factors and implement a higher level of supervision if/when needed (e.g. developmental needs or a medical condition)
- Include and intentionally teach water safety messages with the children throughout our curriculum
- Make sure any water hazards are managed as outlined in our water play risk assessment
- Ensure buckets that contain liquids are not accessible to children
- Empty, safely cover or make inaccessible to children all water containers when they are not in use, e.g. mop buckets, nappy buckets, bathtubs, water troughs, watering cans etc.
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play will be supervised at all times and containers or troughs are emptied after use
- Inspect indoor and outdoor environments for potential water hazards, particularly during and after wet weather

All staff members will hold the appropriate first aid and CPR qualifications and there will be at least one educator on site at all times with current approved qualifications.

Working with families

- Make sure families are informed about our water safety practices by including this procedure in our parent information book and website
- Information about keeping children safe around water will be included in newsletters at least twice a year
- Information about our curriculum on water safety will be provided to parents via our program

References

Department for Education: Preschool water safety procedure (2022)
[Preschool water safety procedure \(education.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.edi.sa.edu.au/preschool-water-safety-procedure)

Department for Education: Water safety for preschools (accessed May 2023)
[Water safety for preschools \(edi.sa.edu.au\)](https://www.edi.sa.edu.au/water-safety-for-preschools)

Water Safety
[Water Safety | kidsafe Australia](https://www.kidsafe.com.au)

Legislation and National Quality Standards

This policy relates to the following National Law and Regulations

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 (Current version 1 March 2023)

Regulation 168: Policies and procedures (2) (a) (iii) – water safety, including safety during any water-based activities
[Education and Care Services National Regulations \(2011 SI 653\) - NSW Legislation](https://www.edi.sa.edu.au/education-and-care-services-national-regulations-2011-si-653-nsw-legislation)

This policy links to:

National Quality Standard 2 (2011)

Quality area 2: Children's health and safety.

Mawson Lakes Preschool

Water Safety Procedure



[Quality Area 2 – Children's health and safety | ACECQA](#)

There are also links to:

Quality area 1: Educational program and practice

[Quality Area 1 – Educational program and practice | ACECQA](#)

Quality area 5: Physical Environment

[Quality Area 3 – Physical environment | ACECQA](#)

Quality area 7: Governance and leadership.

[Quality Area 7 – Governance and leadership | ACECQA](#)