

WATER SAFETY

OVERVIEW

This user guide covers the use of DECD documents relating to 'Water Safety'. The primary document this user guide refers to is the [DECD Preschool Water Safety Procedure](#) and replaces any site specific Water Safety procedures.

INSTRUCTIONS

Leadership will:

- Develop and review this policy and ensure it is implemented throughout the site.
- Ensure facilitators for other programs are aware of the restrictions regarding use of the River outdoor yard for various age groups (based on risk assessment for the pond).

Team Leaders will:

- Ensure educators are aware of this policy and it is implemented in their room.

Educators will:

- Ensure where water hazards are present, safety measures are in place. A water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth.
- Ensure water containers are emptied when experiences are finished for the day.
- Ensure wading/paddling pools or water play containers are emptied after each use and stored to prevent the collection of 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
- Ensure effective barriers are in place to prevent access by any child to any area that opens directly into a fenced pool area.
- Supervise water play experiences at all times as per individual room risk assessment.
- Complete a Risk Management plan, when planning experiences or excursions based around water play or areas with a potential drowning hazard. See the [Risk Management Policy](#) for further details.
- Ensure children are supervised if playing in the outdoor environment during or after rain. The environment should also be checked for flooding or other water hazards after storms (see **Inclement Weather Policy**).
- In the River room, incorporate the pond into the outdoor supervision plan and the risk/benefit assessment for the space.
- Ensure they follow the outlined safety strategies in the risk/benefit assessment for the pond.
- Ensure they are positioned in the yard according to supervision plans.

Implemented: December 2013 **Reviewed:** February 2021 **Next Review:** February 2022

National Quality Standards:

Element 2.2.1. At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard

DECD Policies:

Preschool Water Safety Procedure
Risk Management Policy

DECD Forms:

Risk Assessment Matrix