



ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN

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Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Water Safety procedure

Rationale

Children love to play with water and are naturally drawn to it. They do not understand the danger. Children are top heavy and have a tendency to fall. The most common factor for childhood drowning is lack of active supervision. A child can drown silently in as little as 5cm of water, in less than 20 seconds. For every child who drowns, 10 others are rescued from a near drowning incident. A water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose or mouth. All education and care services must have a local water safety policy in place that outlines how they will manage water safety, including during water-based activities, based on a completed risk assessment.

The requirements of this procedure are that:

- Staff use the department's hazard and corrective action reporting function on the Incident and Response Management System (IRMS) to report and assess water hazards, including the rating of level of risk and corrective actions.
- Site leaders consider water safety and potential water hazards when undertaking a risk assessment for an excursion, including a routine excursion.
- Children are actively supervised at all times when there is a risk of access to any water hazard.
- Water hazards are eliminated wherever possible e.g. Water must be emptied immediately after use and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use. All aspects of the environment must be designed to ensure adequate drainage of water to avoid pooling
- No portable pools will be used at Kindergarten, as they require full fencing with a self-closing, self-latching gate compliant with AS 1926.1 Swimming Pool Safety Part 1 – Safety barriers for swimming pools. The kindergarten does not own a portable pool.
- Water courses created by the children in the sandpit will be closely supervised for potential pooling of water. Staff will ensure that adaptations are made to children's designs that ensure no pooling that creates depths greater than 300mm. This also applies to the creek area.
- Water in receptacles such as buckets and water troughs must be emptied immediately after use and stored upside down and out of children's reach.
- Access to laundry and kitchen areas are restricted when unattended by adults.
- During playgroup, parents are responsible for direct supervision of their child/ren during water play experiences. This will be clearly communicated to families during enrollment.