



National Quality Standard – QA2 Children's Health and Safety

Regulation: 168 (2) (a) (iii) and 101 (2) (b)

Related Key Regulations:

Water Safety Procedure

Purpose

To provide instructions in relation to managing water safety, including during water-based activities, based on a completed risk assessment. Therefore strategies will be in place to manage water safety, including water-based experiences and excursions near bodies of water (lake or river)

Detail

Children thoroughly enjoy exploring their learning environments, especially natural elements where they can be playing with/in or around water, however to keep them safe we need to have strategies in place where they can explore and be curious and understand the additional safety required around water.

Water Hazards

A water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth. Water hazards in a child's learning environment can include:

- Sinks, basins, fish tanks, fishbowls and baths
- Swimming pools, portable pools, spas
- Water courses, ponds, sandpits, clam shells
- Water troughs, containers and buckets used for play, animal drinking containers
- Pooling water

Water hazards at Barmera Kindergarten

Sinks and basins

- Children's bathroom – no plugs are provided to prevent pooling
- Outdoor water trough – no plugs are provided and children are supervised as they access water with watering cans and other buckets or receptacles for their play
- Adult toilet – plugs are not provided, and children's access is restricted through high lock up the top of the door and active supervision
- Kitchen – access is restricted by a gate which is locked, unless a supervising educator is present.

Water receptacles (buckets, water play trough and other containers)

- Active supervision is required by educators at all times when children are engaging with water play with water that is greater than 5cm deep in a container that can fit a child's nose and mouth.
- Water must be emptied immediately after use or whenever active supervision is not possible (at the end of each day – prior to the children leaving and families arriving, to ensure safety. Receptacles must be placed or stored in a manner that prevents them filling with water when not in use.



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Related Key Regulations:

Water course (creek bed) sand pit and mud pit

- The handheld water pump is used by children and educators. Active supervision is required when the handheld water pump is in use. The water from the pump can feed directly into the sand pit and the mud pit areas.
- Educators are to monitor drainage and report/eliminate any of the spaces where pooling of water is visible. Both areas are designed to flow and not fill.
- Educators are to monitor the prevalence of insects (mosquitos and bees) attracted by water in the creek bed and restrict water use for a period of time where insects are considered an unacceptable risk.

Managing Water Hazards

Educators at Barmera Kindergarten regularly complete risk assessments that identify and assess risks associated with any water hazard and water-based activities, including excursions by bodies of water (lake, river). These risks assessments will address:

1. **Active Supervision** – children are actively supervised at all times when there is a risk of access to any water hazard. Active supervision includes:
 - Direct and constant monitoring of children – within arm’s length (within 1 to 2 meters)
 - Careful and intentional positioning
 - Scanning and moving around the environment
 - Listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
 - Observing play and anticipating behaviour
 - Higher adult to child ratios.
2. **Eliminating Hazards** – water will be emptied regularly (at the end of each day) and troughs and buckets etc. will be stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use. All aspects of the environment are designed to ensure adequate drainage of water to avoid pooling.
3. **Restricting Access** – Compliant fencing or barriers.

Water safety during excursions

Water safety and potential water hazards are considered when undertaking risk assessments for excursions, including routine excursions, such as Bush Kindy, when we are considering other environments in the Barmera community and surrounds. Careful planning and considerations must be taken, including what activities and experiences will be undertaken, ensuring adequate supervision and a change to educator to child ratio. These details must be considered and documented during the risk assessment phase.