

2(c) Health and Safety - Water Safety

Purpose

Activities may include where there are areas of water that are accessible to children.

Areas of water within this policy include swimming pools, wading pools, lakes, ponds, oceans, creeks, dams and rivers. It also includes any equipment used by the service that contains more than 5cm of water.

Before any activity where bodies of water are accessible, a risk assessment must be undertaken. When the activity is underway, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision must be in place at all times, to ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

Scope

NQF Quality Area 2	Children's Health and Safety
Standard 2.2 Safety	Element 2.1.2 Supervision
Standard 2.1 Health	Element 2.1.3 Healthy Lifestyle

Guidelines

There are recognised risks associated with bodies of water and children. It is, therefore, essential that a risk assessment and consequent risk minimisation strategies are in place to ensure children can enjoy water-based activities safely.

- 1) This assessment needs to consider the appropriate ratios of adult to child as one key factor. Excursion activity is 1:6 for preschool to Year 2, and 1:10 for Years 3-7.
 - Contingency plans and safety preparations to address the possibility of children and young people falling into the water.
- 2) For water-based activities outside the service, the following will occur:
 - Parent consent for a child to participate in the activity.
 - Ensuring there are educators present that have current, approved first aid qualifications, including CPR.
 - Plan to use venues that provide additional supervision in the form of life-guards.
 - Ensure educators are in positions to supervise any child accessing a body of water directly.

Roles and responsibilities

The Director will be responsible for:

- Conducting a risk assessment on any water-based activity.
- Communicating the activity to families and seeking consent for their child to participate.
- Ensuring educators' supervision is direct and vigilant.

Monitor, report and review

Author	OSHC Director Lauren Ryder	Nov 2015
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Review Date		

Resource Documents

- Department for Education Camps and Excursions policy and procedures
- Department for Education WHS Risk Assessments