



POLICY STATEMENT

TWOOSH believes that the safety of children and educators is paramount. Water safety involves ensuring that any water used is safe and hygienic for consumption and/or play. It also involves playing safely around bodies of water.

TWOOSH encourages children to explore, experiment and take appropriate risks in a variety of ways including water play ("My Time, Our Place", Outcome 4). During water-based activities, Educators provide close supervision and role model appropriate behaviours to children, including sun smart behaviours like applying sunscreen and wearing sun smart clothing.

REFERENCES AND CONSIDERATIONS

- Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011 (168) (99-103)
- National Quality Standard 2.2, Element 2.2.1
- 'My time, our place' Framework for School Age Care in Australia 2011
- Work, Health & Safety Act 2011

Related TWOOSH documents

- Policy D-6 – Sun protection
- Policy B-3 – Excursion
- Policy D-9 – Providing a child safe environment
- Policy D-13 – Management of incident, injury, illness & trauma
- Excursion authorisation records

PROCEDURES

Water safety practices

Drinking water

- ◆ Children have safe, independent access to clean fresh drinking water at all times.
- ◆ Drinking water is checked daily to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consumption.
- ◆ Hot water accessible to children is maintained at a temperature of 43.5°C or less. This is tested and recorded annually.

Water-based activities in TWOOSH

- ◆ Educators will closely supervise all water-based activities. All water play will remain in view of the Educator/s at all times, without any obstruction.
- ◆ Educators will assess the hygienic state of water prior to play.
- ◆ Educators will conduct daily safety inspections of the premises to ensure that all hazards are known and minimised. When a hazard or potential hazard is detected, Educators will complete a risk assessment to address any concerns or remove the hazard if possible.

- ◆ Educators will assess the safety of outdoor areas after rain prior to play.
- ◆ Educators will discourage children from drinking the water used for play.
- ◆ Educators will educate children about the safe use of equipment used during water-based activities, for example, slip and slide, water "guns", bubble machines, etc.
- ◆ Educators will ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level.
- ◆ Educators will ensure water is appropriately disposed of immediately after the completion of the water-based activity. This includes consideration of the environment and how the water may be used for a secondary, environmental benefit.
- ◆ Educators will ensure that any buckets of water used for cleaning or hand washing will be emptied immediately after use and will not be left unsupervised.
- ◆ Educators will ensure that containers will not be left in any position where they might collect water.

Excursions

- ◆ TWOOSH recognises the risks posed by bodies of water and will ensure that every precaution is taken so that children are able to enjoy water-based excursions safely.
- ◆ Authorisation forms are sought from guardians prior to excursions that involve water-based activities.
- ◆ Educators will closely supervise all water-based activities. All water play will remain in view of the Educator/s at all times, without any obstruction.
- ◆ TWOOSH recognises the following locations as 'bodies of water':
 - swimming pools and /or water fun parks
 - wading pools
 - lakes/lagoons
 - ponds
 - seas/oceans/bays/harbours
 - creeks
 - dams
 - rivers
 - equipment used that contains 5 cm or more of water and would allow a child to submerge both nose and mouth at the same time.
- ◆ Educators will develop a risk management plan for all excursions near or at bodies of water. Please refer to Policy B-3 on excursions.
- ◆ TWOOSH will conduct risk assessments for all programmed water-based activities to determine adequate educator-to-child ratio.
 - The Regulations do not provide definitive ratios for activities where water is a feature, however as a general rule, a 1:5 ratio is followed when swimming is involved.
 - In addition, Sections 165, 167 and 169 of the National Law provide clear statements about adequate supervision, which state:
- ◆ Educators will consider the following factors when determining the adequacy of supervision, including:
 - number, ages and abilities of the participating children (based on the indication provided by guardians of their child's swimming ability)
 - activities that each child can engage in
 - characteristics of the area where children are playing, particularly the visibility and accessibility of these areas
 - number and positioning of Educators
 - Educators' knowledge of each child and group of children
 - experience, knowledge and skill set of each Educator
 - balancing risks in the environment while providing enriching experiences to children
 - supervision provided by a facility eg, life guards. A facility's staff do not count towards ratio, however they are responsible for water rescue. TWOOSH educators will immediately alert life guards in the event of a water emergency.
- ◆ Educators will group children based on swimming abilities, and will only take them into areas they are competent to swim in.

Notifying guardians

Educators will notify guardians as soon as practicable if their child is involved in any water-related incident while under TWOOSH care. Details of the incident will be recorded in an Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record (see Policy D-13).

Revisions

Date of next review: February 2025

Date	Reviewer	Approved by
04.12.17		Approved by TWOOSH Management Committee
17.09.18		Approved by TWOOSH Management Committee
29.07.19		Approved by TWOOSH Management Committee
10.08.20	IC, MK	Approved by TWOOSH Management Committee
09.11.21	PG	Approved by TWOOSH Management Committee
27.11.23	AB	Approved by TWOOSH Management Committee
