



Woodford Road, Elizabeth North 5113
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Elizabeth North Preschool

Water Safety Procedure

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This Procedure applies to all preschool events, on and off-site in accordance with the Department for Education *Preschool Water Safety Procedure* [DfE Preschool water safety procedure.pdf](#) and Kidsafe's *Water safety in education and care settings* [Water safety in education and care settings \(edi.sa.edu.au\)](#).

National Quality Standards

QA2	2.2	Safety – Each child is protected
	2.2.1	Supervision

Legislative requirements

Education and Early Childhood Services (Registration and Standards) Act 2011 (legislation.sa.gov.au)		
Section	165	Offence to inadequately supervise children
	167	Offence relating to protection of children from harms and hazards
	168	Education and care services must have policies and procedures
Regs	101	Conduct a risk assessment for an excursion
	162(2)(a)(iii)	Education and Care Services must have policies and procedures on water safety, including safety during any water-based activities
Education and Early Childhood Services (Registration and Standards) Act 2011 (legislation.sa.gov.au)		

Early Years Learning Framework

LO1	Children feel safe, secure and supported; Educators ensure they are actively supervising water-based activities.
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Policy Statement

Staff at Elizabeth North Preschool aim to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of each child at all times, which includes ensuring the implementation of clear policies and procedures in relation to water safety

Rationale

Elizabeth North Preschool programming includes a sensory-rich environment and a shared belief that water supports the exploration and discovery of scientific and mathematical thinking whilst encouraging a conversation rich experience that supports the further development of vocabulary and oral language. Drowning is one of the leading causes of unintentional death for Australian children, with statistics from *Australia's National Drowning Report* by the Royal Lifesaving Society of Australia showing that in 2017-2018, 18 children aged 0-4 years drowned. Drowning can occur quickly and silently – 20 seconds and a few centimetres of water is all it takes for a toddler to drown. It's not only large bodies of water, such as pools and the beach that put children at risk; baths, ponds, buckets, eskies, pet's drinking bowls and other small bodies of water are also drowning hazards. ([Kidsafe – Drowning factsheet, 2019](#))

Water Hazard

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

- sinks, basins, fish tanks, fish bowls, 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

Roles and Responsibilities

Our staff will ensure:

- water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied or covered securely after use.
- buckets used for cleaning and emptied immediately after use. Cleaning buckets are to be stored upside down and not left in areas accessible to children.
- discourage children from drinking grey water; and ensure clean drinking water is available at all times.
- Ensure bathroom areas are supervised when in use by children
- keep door/gate to kitchen closed at all times
- write and implement risk assessments for activities that involve water.
- respect water as a precious resource and encourage children to turn taps off, only use what they need and have taps for water play on low.
- actively supervise children when playing with or around water. Active supervision includes:
 - Direct and constant monitoring of children – within 1-2 metres
 - Careful, intentional positioning
 - Scanning and moving around the area
 - Listening closing for sounds or the absence of noise
 - Observing play and anticipating behaviour
 - Higher adult/child ratios
- explicitly teach water safety as part of the curriculum, especially in the lead up to water play activities
- be mindful of potential water hazards, particularly during and after wet weather. Areas of water pooling will be referred to maintenance.

Beach and Bush Environments

Beach and Bush Kindy excursions where bodies of water are present. Prior to these excursion days our staff will conduct a risk assessment where particular attention will be focused upon water safety and ensuring that ratios are adequate when around bodies of water. Staff also conduct daily risk assessments to accommodate changing weather conditions (i.e., where the tide may be high) prior to bringing children to the site. ([DfE Camps and Excursions](#)). Prior to the first Beach or Bush Kindy each year, a staff member will visit the site to review the risk assessment in person.

Working with families, health services & industry

Our Preschool:

- Provides information from Kidsafe to families and caregivers on water safety through a variety of media such as:
 - Notices
 - Policy consultation
 - Displays
 - Access to risk assessments
- Encourages families to reinforce water safe practices at home with their children

Revision Register

Version Number	Details of Changes Made	Date Issued
1	Procedure creation	April 2023

Endorsed by the staff of Elizabeth North Preschool and the Governing Council: April 2023

Next Review Due: April 2024

Sources:

National Quality Standard: QA2 Children's safety and supervision

Kidsafe: Drowning Factsheet (2019) & Water safety in education and Care Settings (2018)

Department for Education: Preschool Water Safety Procedure (2021), Camps and Excursions

Education Standards Board: Water Safety [Water safety | Education Standards Board SA \(esb.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.esb.sa.gov.au/water-safety)