



## WATER SAFETY POLICY

Date: June 2018

Version: 1

Last Amended By: Sarah Thomas

Next Review: June 2019

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### 1. Aim

Giggles & Atlas Childcare Centre aims to ensure that authorisations are in accordance with the Education and Care Services Education and Care Services National regulations 2011 (168). Our service has a responsibility to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of each child at all times.

Drowning is the leading cause of death for children aged 1-4 years in Australia. While most drowning occurs in backyard swimming pools, it is important to be aware that children can drown in as little as 6cm of water.

### 2. Overview

- Educators
- Children
- Staff
- Families
- Management
- Visitors

### 3. Responsibilities for the Approved Provider

The Approved Provider of an education and care service must -

- Ensure no child swims in any water without: (ATLAS & GIGGLES WILL NOT HAVE ANY SWIMMING POOLS ON THE PREMISES)
  - Written permission from parent or guardian to learn water safety and swimming.
  - Appropriate adult/child ratios are in place.
  - Supervision is provided by a person with first aid certificate, or a recognised award experienced in water safety and rescue procedures.
- Ensure the service operates in accordance with the Education and Care Services National Law 2010 and Education and Care Services Education and Care Services National regulations 2011.
- Keep cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) guide near any water and on clear visible display.
- Safely cover or make inaccessible to children all water containers, e.g. ponds, spas, nappy buckets, bathtubs and ensure that child play areas are safely fenced off from water hazards water trough, water play
- Remove all objects from around a trough or other water hazard that a child could use to climb over fencing, such as logs, trees, bikes, chairs and bins.

### 4. Responsibilities of the Nominated Supervisor

The Nominated Supervisor of an education and care service must –

- Ensure close supervision of children near water such as a cleaning bucket, troughs and toilets at all times, and never leave a child alone near any water so that they are protected from harms and hazards.
- Ensure First Aid and CPR qualifications and requirements are met at all times.
- Provide families with community messages regarding safe water practices.
- The thermostat on the hot water system is set to a medium temperature to ensure children are not able to scald themselves when washing hands.
- Children requiring bathing will be bathed using a washcloth and warm water rather than immersed in a bath.
- Educators are not permitted to consume hot drinks in any area accessible to children.

## 5. Responsibilities of the Educators

The Educators of an education and care service must –

- Embed water safety messages into the children’s education program.
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied or covered securely after use.
- Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No cleaning buckets are to be left in areas or accessible to children.
- Discourage children from drinking grey water. Provide clean drinking water at all times.
- Supervise children in toilet/shower facilities within the service.

## 6. Responsibilities of the Family/Guardian

The Family/Guardians of an education and care service must –

- Ensure that every child has an adult with them before approaching an area with water.
- Reinforce water safety practice with children.

## 7. Related Documents

- Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) [www.acacqa.gov.au](http://www.acacqa.gov.au)
- National Quality Standard Quality Area 2: Children’s Health and Safety.

## 8. Related Statutory Obligations & Considerations

- Education and Care Services National Law 2010 Clause 13(c)
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Family Law Act 1975 (Cth), as amended 2011
- Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998

**Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA)** <http://www.acecqa.gov.au/>  
**Children (Education and Care Services Nation Law Application) Act 2010**  
**Department of Education** - <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/what-we-offer/regulation-and-accreditation/early-childhood-education-care>  
**Education and Care Services National Regulations (Children (Education and Care Services))**  
**Kidsafe NSW** – <http://www.kidsafensw.org/water-safety/>  
**Kidsafe NSW** – [http://www.kidsafensw.org/imagesDB/wysiwyg/SwimmingPoolSafetyKL2009\\_2.pdf](http://www.kidsafensw.org/imagesDB/wysiwyg/SwimmingPoolSafetyKL2009_2.pdf)  
**Kids Health** - [http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid\\_safe/outdoor/water\\_safety.html](http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/outdoor/water_safety.html)  
**National Quality Framework (NQF)** - <http://acecqa.gov.au/national-quality-framework/>  
**NSW Government Fair Trading – Pool Fencing Requirements**

## 9. Related Telephone Numbers

- Early Childhood Directorate – 1800-619-113
- Kidsafe - 02 9845-0890
- Emergency Services – 000

## 10. Amendment History

Version	Amendment	Short Description
1	Policy template reformatted	Policy template reformatted – use of different headings to make clearer reading

This policy will be updated to ensure compliance with all relevant legal requirements every year. Appropriate consultation of all stakeholders (including staff and families) will be conducted on a timely basis. In accordance with Regulation 172 of the *Education and Care Services National Regulation*, families of children enrolled will be notified at least 14 days and their input considered prior to any amendment of policies and procedures that have any impact on their children or family.