



WATER SAFETY Policy

Policy Rationale

This information relates specifically to and meets the requirements of Regulation 168 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations. John Hartley Children's Centre understands the risks that water-based activities pose and will undertake measures to protect the health and safety of all children involved in water-based activities.

Educators will

- Always supervise children when having access to any water hazards. This includes in the sandpit, mud kitchen, part of sensory play, or if children are helping to clean using a bucket of water and sponges.
- Ensure that effective barriers are in place to prevent access by children to any area adjacent to a water hazard (e.g. swimming pools, dams).
- Empty water vessels immediately after use and store them in a manner that prevents the vessel from filling with water when not in use. The water play will not exceed more than 30cm in depth.
- Ensure children always have safe and independent access to clean and cool drinking water
- Conduct risk assessments in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 100 and 101 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.

When children are taken on an excursion to swim or where there is a significant water hazard, educators are to conduct a risk assessment in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 100 and 101 of the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*.

At John Hartley Children's Centre, we acknowledge that children need opportunities to develop their understanding of the natural environment. Experiences with water encourage active exploration and discovery of the environment. Knowledge of potential water hazards will help educators provide a safe, stimulating environment for preschool children. Drowning and near drowning is an obvious hazard associated with water (more than 100 children drown in Australia each year). While swimming pools are an obvious hazard, other drowning hazards for young children include nappy storage buckets, animal water containers, ponds and poor drainage that allows for water to pool.

CREATED: 2012 – (Version 7)

TO BE REVIEWED: 2026

This policy should not be read in isolation and complements the DfE Water Safety policy.

REFERENCE:

[Preschool water safety procedure \(edi.sa.edu.au\)](http://edi.sa.edu.au)

Education and Care Services National Law: (sections 165, 167) SA Department of Health - www.health.sa.gov.au