

WATER SAFETY POLICY

PURPOSE

Village Early Education is committed to protecting children from harm and drowning risks associated with water.

Our Services will maintain safe environments, effective supervision and appropriate risk controls for water play, water hazards, hot water and activities conducted near or involving water.

Children's safety, rights and best interests are the paramount consideration in all decisions and practices relating to water safety.

WATER SAFETY AND SUPERVISION

Children will be actively supervised at all times when participating in water-based activities or when in proximity to a water hazard. Supervision will be planned according to the activity, environment, children's ages, abilities and individual needs, and the level of risk involved.

Educators will position themselves so they can effectively observe and respond to children and potential hazards. No child will be left unattended in or around water.

WATER HAZARDS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Village Early Education will identify and manage water hazards within the Service environment and during activities conducted away from the Service.

Water hazards may include water play equipment, troughs, buckets, baths, containers, water features, pools, dams, rivers, creeks, ponds and other areas where water may collect or present a drowning risk.

Risk controls will be proportionate to the identified hazard and may include:

- restricting or preventing children's access
- physical barriers
- increased supervision
- modifying or removing an activity
- emptying or safely storing water containers
- excluding children from an unsafe area until the hazard is rectified.

Permanent or significant water hazards that cannot be continuously supervised must be appropriately secured or isolated from children's access.

WATER PLAY

Water play will be planned and implemented in a way that supports children's learning while maintaining their safety, health and wellbeing.

Water used for play will be maintained at a safe level and children will be actively supervised throughout the activity.

Water containers and equipment will be emptied, secured or stored safely when not in use to prevent unintended access or collection of water.

Children will be discouraged from drinking water used for play activities.

WATER HAZARDS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Village Early Education will maintain environments that minimise children's unintended access to water hazards.

Water containers, cleaning buckets, nappy buckets and other items capable of holding water will be kept inaccessible to children unless being used as part of a planned and supervised experience.

Water that collects following rain, watering or other activities will be identified and removed where it presents a hazard.

Taps and other water sources accessible to children will be monitored and left secure when not in use.

EXCURSIONS AND ACTIVITIES NEAR WATER

Water hazards will be considered when planning excursions, outdoor events and activities conducted away from the Service.

Where an excursion involves or is located near water, the risk assessment will consider:

- the nature and location of the water hazard
- children's ages, abilities and individual needs
- supervision requirements
- whether increased educator-to-child ratios are required
- access to emergency assistance
- any additional qualifications or controls required for the activity.

FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Village Early Education will ensure required first aid and CPR-qualified persons are available in accordance with legislative requirements.

Water-related incidents and emergencies will be responded to immediately in accordance with the Administration of First Aid Policy and Procedure and Incident, Injury and Trauma Procedure.

Where a child is unresponsive, experiencing breathing difficulties, has inhaled water or otherwise requires urgent medical assistance, emergency services will be contacted.

WATER SAFETY AND EDUCATION

Water safety awareness will be incorporated into the educational program in age-appropriate ways.

Children will be supported to develop knowledge and skills including:

- recognising potential water hazards
- following safety instructions
- understanding safe behaviour around water
- seeking help from an adult where required.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

Our *Water Safety Policy* will be updated and reviewed annually or earlier if there are changes to legislation, ACECQA guidance or after a water-related incident. Feedback will be requested from children, families, staff, educators and management. All families will be notified 14 days before any policy change that may have a significant impact on the provision of education and care to any child enrolled at the Service or the family's ability to utilise the Service.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW AND NATIONAL REGULATIONS

S. 2A	Paramount consideration— safety, rights and best interests of children
S. 165	Offence to inadequately supervise children

S. 167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards
12	Meaning of a serious incident
101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursion
115	Premises designed to facilitate supervision
136	First aid qualifications
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
170	Policies and procedures to be followed
171	Policies and procedures to be kept available
172	Notification of change to policies or procedures
176	Time to notify the certain information to the Regulatory Authority

SOURCE

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. [Approved learning frameworks](#)

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2026). [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#)

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2026). [Water safety: Policy and procedure guidelines](#)

Early Childhood Australia. (2016). *Code of Ethics*

[Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010](#)

[Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011](#)

Kidsafe. [Water Safety](#).

Royal Life Saving Society Australia. [Keep watch program](#)

Victoria Government. Better Health Channel. [Water safety for children](#).

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED BY	Kelsey Pearce		
POLICY REVIEWED	SEPTEMBER 2026	NEXT REVIEW DATE	SEPTEMBER 2027
VERSION NUMBER	V13.09.26		
MODIFICATIONS	- updated policy structure and wording for clarity - strengthened supervision, water hazard and risk management requirements - updated legislation, related policies and sources		