



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education and  
Child Development



# Water Safety Policy

At Plympton South Kindergarten, we believe 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 hazards associated with water will assist educators to 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 which allows water to pool etc.

## Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011:

Regulation 168 (2) (a)

Related key regulation: 101 (2) (b)

## Links to the National Quality Standards:

National Quality Standard 2.3

## **Water Safety Guidelines:**

- Children must be adequately supervised at all times when having access to any water hazards, such as the water trough.
- Where a water vessel is used for water play by children, the vessel is to be emptied immediately after use and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use.
- 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 our Excursions Policy (please refer to the Excursions Policy for risk assessment form).
- Children are to have safe independent access to clean and cool drinking water at all times.

### **Staff Responsibilities:**

At Plympton South Kindergarten, we are responsible for managing water hazards by:

- Ensuring wading/paddling pools or water play troughs are emptied after each use and stored to prevent the collection of water.
- Ensuring fish / frog ponds and water features that are not able to be adequately supervised at all times and/or pose an unacceptable risk to children are guarded or effective barriers are in place.
- When on excursions, ensuring effective barriers are in place to prevent access by any child to any area that opens directly into a fenced pool area. Or if at the beach, ensuring that the adult to child ratio does not exceed 1:4.

***In the event of an incident, injury, or 'near-miss', please refer to our policies for Reporting and/or Administering First Aid.***

### **Resources:**

DECD Swimming and Aquatic Website: [www.decd.sa.gov/swimmingandaquatics/](http://www.decd.sa.gov/swimmingandaquatics/)

Kidsafe NSW: [www.kidsafensw.org](http://www.kidsafensw.org)

This Policy has been developed by the Governing Council

The policy will be reviewed and evaluated regularly by both the staff and Governing Council and modified as required to ensure continued relevance for the Centre. This policy has been developed by the Preschool director in consultation with staff and the Governing Council endorsed by the Governing Council on October 2012

Chairperson .....

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