

# Water Safety Policy

## Overview

Peak Sports and Learning will plan experiences with appropriate levels of challenge where children will be encouraged to explore, experiment and take appropriate risks (“My Time, Our Place”, Outcome 4), including the use of water as a medium for play in both the outdoor and indoor environment and on excursions.

Water use will always be supervised to ensure the safety of children is a priority. The hygienic state of water will be assessed before it is used for children’s play.

The safety and supervision of children is paramount when in or around water. This relates to water play within the service as well as excursions near or at bodies of water whether the children are entering the water or not.

## Considerations

Education and Care Services National Law & Regulations	National Quality Standards & Elements	Other Service policies/documentation	Other
Regulations 99, 100, 101, 102, 168	Standard 2.2 Element 2.2.1	- Providing a Child Safe Environment policy - Excursion policy - <b>Swim Ability Consent (Waiver)</b>	- My Time, Our Place. - Work, Health & Safety Act 2011. - Risk Assessments - Safety Checks - Authorisation Records

## Water Safety Excursion Procedures:

### Water Safety in relation to excursions

- Our service recognises the risks posed by bodies of water. We will ensure that every precaution is taken so that children are able to enjoy water-based activities safely. Risk assessments will be carried out for programmed water-based activities.
- In addition to the normal excursion permission note, parents and families will be required to complete a **Swim Ability Consent (Waiver)** for every child on each water excursion day. On this form, parents indicate their child’s ability.
- **Children identified as WEAK or NON-SWIMMERS will wear a red wrist band** and will not go in a pool or body of water where any part is deeper than 1 metre. **STRONG SWIMMERS** will be required to undergo a Water Survival Challenge and if successful, **will wear a blue wrist band so they can go in the deep part of the pool.**
- The Water Survival Challenge will consist of:
  - a slide in entry
  - an unassisted swim of further than 12 metres
  - a 30 second float or tread water,
  - an unassisted exit.

- The water safety challenge can be performed by lifesaver staff or educators.
- Swimming excursions will only occur where there are qualified life-guards on duty.
- A staff:child ratio of 1:5 or another determined by a risk assessment is adhered to for excursions where children are swimming and entering the water.
- Active supervision techniques will be maintained at all times during swimming activities. A range of factors shall determine the adequacy of supervision, including:
  - Numbers, ages and abilities of the children
  - Number and positioning of educators
  - Each child's current activity
  - Areas where children are playing, in particular the visibility and accessibility of these areas
  - Risks in the environment and experiences provided to children
  - Educators' knowledge of each child and each group of children, the
  - experience, knowledge and skill of each educator.
- Definition of a body of water:
  - Swimming pools and /or water fun parks
  - Wading pools
  - Lakes
  - Ponds
  - The sea / ocean
  - Creeks
  - Dams
  - Rivers
  - Equipment used by the service that could contain 20cm or more of water and would allow a child to submerge both nose and mouth at the same time.

#### **Water safety in relation to water-based activities within the service**

- Water use within the service will be supervised to ensure that the safety of children, and educators is a priority. The hygienic state of water will be assessed before it is used for children's play.
- At the completion of the activity the water containers will be emptied and the containers turned upside down or packed away. Educators will ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water vessels.
- Children will be instructed in the safe use of equipment used during water-based activities, for example, slip and slide, water pistols, bubble machines, etc.

- Any buckets of water that may be used for cleaning or hand washing will not be left unsupervised near the children and will be emptied immediately after use
- The children’s play areas will be checked each morning to ensure that no containers or pools of water are accessible to children. If rain occurs during the day, outdoor play areas will be checked for safety prior to the children entering the outdoor environment.

### Version Control Table

Version Control	Date Released	Next Review	Approved by	Amendment
1	Jan 2017	March 2018	Directors	Nil – small amendments to procedures
2	December 2019	December 2020	Directors	Rewritten and edited to reflect 2018 updated Quality Standards. Addition of procedures for assessing children’s swimming ability using a Water Safety Challenge and a colour coded wrist band system.
3	March 2020	June 2020	Directors	Reviewed with no amendments. Moved to new document review timeline.
4	June 2020	June 2022	Directors	Reviewed with no amendments, information still current.
4	June 2022	June 2024	Directors	No amendments made with COVID restrictions and nil water excursions planned. To be reviewed when applicable to service.