PURPOSE
To outline the procedures that apply to managing water safety, including safety during any water-based activities in all Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) preschool sites, in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 168 (2) (iii) of the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.

SCOPE
This procedure applies to all educators and volunteers in a DECD preschool service.

OBJECTIVES
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 allow water to pool etc.

PROCEDURE DETAIL
Children must be adequately supervised at all times when having access to any water hazards.
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.
Premises adjacent to or providing access to, any water hazards that are not able to be adequately supervised at all times (eg dams, swimming pool) are to be isolated from children by a child resistant barrier or fence.
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.
Children are to have safe independent access to clean and cool drinking water at all times.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
Educators and Volunteers at Stirling East Kindergarten are responsible for managing water hazards by:
Ensure water containers are supervised while children engage with water in the education and care setting.
Ensuring wading/paddling pools or water play containers are emptied at the end of each day and stored to prevent the collection of water.
Ensuring effective barriers are in place to prevent access by any child to any area that opens directly into a fenced pool area. (Neighbours have an outdoor spa.)

Reviewed October 2014
Director
Chairperson
To be reviewed in 2016
ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

DECD Risk Management Policy and Framework

DECD Risk Assessment Criteria Matrix

Business Manager Task No: 9275

Safety Inspection Checklist – GROUNDS

‘Is the yard adequately drained (no water pools on walkways, lawn or hard play area?’

DECD Swimming and Aquatics Web Page

Aquatic Risk Management & Curriculum Framework

REFERENCES

Kidsafe NSW – Water Safety
www.kidsafensw.org/watersafety/index.htm

Royal Life Saving Protection Australia – Fact Sheets