



Nature Alliance Family Day Care Service

Water Safety



POLICIES IN THIS SECTION AS REQUIRED BY:

Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012: Section 165(3); 167(3)

Education and Care Services National Regulations, 2012 – ‘Regulations’:26(1); 101; 104; 116 (2)(d), 373

National Quality Standards for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care (2010)

POLICY

Nature Alliance Family Day Care Service recognizes that water play is an enjoyable and valuable play experience for children and aims to ensure that the health and safety guidelines are maintained during these experiences. Educators will prevent accidents relating to water-based activities through risk assessing, active supervision, education and compliance with National Regulations.

A breach of this water safety policy where serious injury or death of a child occurs will result in termination of the Family Day Care Service Educator’s registration as a member of Nature Alliance Family Day Care Service and the grievance procedures set out in this service policy manual shall not apply.

PROCEDURES

General Water Safety

1. All swimming pools at the Family Day Care Educator’s residence and/or venue must comply with the Australian Standards and State regulations for pool fencing and gates.
2. Ensure the pool is registered with the relevant Local Government Authority and a copy of the current swimming pool/spa inspection report lodged with Nature Alliance Family Day Care Service.
3. Any items around the perimeter of the pool: for example, tables, chairs, pot plants etc. must be situated to prevent a child using them as climbing aids
4. Educators who have a pool, spa or water feature at their premises are required to conduct a daily check of these water bodies and record the check on the Water Hazard Checklist - NA-FRM-0029B.
5. All spas and ponds at the registered premises or venue of the Family Day Care Educator must be safely covered or made inaccessible to children.
6. Each pool or spa has a safety device that:
 - a) alerts the educator of entry to the pool/spa or surrounding area or
 - b) covers a pool/spa and prevents a child entering it
7. All fishponds or similar water features that collect or fill with water on the Family Day Care premises shall be securely covered with weld mesh which will meet all the following requirements:
 - (i) support the weight of an adult.
 - (ii) at all times, be above and remain above the level of the water
 - (iii) be fixed in place.

8. Wading pools and other containers must be emptied and cleaned after use and stored to prevent collection of water. Wading pools can only be filled to a maximum of 30 centimetres and a Benefit Risk Assessment must be completed annually to ensure all hazards are identified and eliminated.
9. On registration or when a body of water is installed at the registered premises a Specific Risk Assessment will be conducted by service staff in consultation with the Educator. This will be reviewed annually or when circumstances require an update.
10. All children near water will be actively supervised, and no child will be left alone near water.
11. Where there is a pool, spa or water feature at the premises, the educator must be directly supervising and physically be in the proximity to any child in their care who is near the pool, spa or water feature.
12. Any containers such as soaking buckets must be safely covered or made inaccessible to children
13. Pools, spas and water features will be checked monthly on support visits and recorded on the visit report with a copy being forwarded to the Educator. These support visits may be conducted virtually on a bi-monthly basis in rural and remote areas.
14. The Educator must hold a current First Aid Certificate, and their CPR must be updated annually and remain valid at all times. Failure to do this will result in the Educator closing their service until the required Certificate is in place.

Swimming Activities:

1. Swimming activities can only take place if the Educator engages the services of a qualified Swimming Instructor.
2. No children can engage in swimming activities unless the requirements below are met.
 - (i) The Qualified Swimming Instructor must have the following: -
 - Austswim Qualification or Swim Australia Qualification
 - Recognised Resuscitation Qualification, such as Bronze Medallion
 - Current CPR Certificate
 - Current Child Protection Certificate
 - (ii) The Swimming Instructor must meet the Nature Alliance Family Day Care Service fit and proper requirements
 - (iii) The Educator must ensure that the Swimming Instructor has completed the Nature Alliance Family Day Care Service registration process, and the application has been approved with Nature Alliance Family Day Care Service prior to the commencement of any swimming activities on the premises
 - (iv) A written contract between the parents and swim instructor will be required and this must be forwarded to Nature Alliance Family Day Care Service prior to the lessons taking place.
 - (v) The children must be signed out of the Educators care and into the care of the swimming instructor for the duration of the lesson.
 - (vi) Evidence that the Educators insurers have been notified and written confirmation approving these activities are forward to Nature Alliance Family Day Care Service
3. Only children engaged in the swimming lesson can be in the pool or pool area.
4. A risk assessment must be conducted on the pool area prior to swimming lessons commencing and lodged with Nature Alliance Family Day Care Service and reviewed every six months if lessons are continuing.

5. Where a swimming instructor had previously been registered but the swimming lessons they were conducting had ceased, it is essential to initiate the re-registration process. The swimming instructor must reregister by completing the registration process in full.

Linking policies

NA-POL- 005.2 Excursions and Regular Outings.
NA-POL-001.2 Sun Protection
NA-POL-001.7 Child Safety

Linking documents:

NA-FRM-0018B Specific Risk Assessment.
NA-FRM-0018D Benefit Risk Assessment
NA-FRM-0029B Water Hazard Checklist
NA-WI-0012 Swimming Instructor Work Instruction

Source:

Royal Lifesaving WA