



The Hutchins School: Children's Services

CS-134: Water Safety Policy

Key Legislation	National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care: Standard 2.3: <i>Each Child is Protected.</i>
Commencement Date	1/6/2013
Last Review Date	1/6/2016

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the procedures that apply to the management of water safety, including (but not limited to) the provision of water-based activities at The Hutchins School's Children's Services, and water-based activities engaged in or with whilst on excursion.

2. Scope

This policy applies to The Hutchins School: Children's Services.

3. Objectives

The objective of this policy is to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of the children in care at The Hutchins School's Children's Services, specifically while engaged in water-based play.

4. Definitions

The Hutchins School: Children's Services A term used to denote The Hutchins School: Outside School Hours Care & Kindergarden (collectively).

OSHC The Hutchins School: Outside School Hours Care

Kindergarden The Hutchins School: Kindergarden (including Pre-Kinder)

5. Policy Information

The supervision and safety of children with and around water is of paramount importance.

Learning spaces and environments are expected to offer an array of possibilities, and to connect children with natural materials that encourage interaction with the environment. Water is one experience that offers sensory intensive, open-ended experiences that foster creativity and imagination. These experiences may be encountered either on-site, or whilst on excursion. It is expected that such experiences are closely supervised by staff at all times. Educators are expected to remain vigilant in their supervision of children in and around water, and to remain alert to the potential risks posed by water-based



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play. It is important for educators to be aware that children can and have drowned in as little as a few centimetres of water. This highlights the importance of close supervision in water-based play at all times.

6. Supporting Procedures / Guidelines

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Provide guidance and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water;
- Ensure work, health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and play; and
- Ensure that adequate (or higher) educator to child and adult to child ratios are maintained at all times, particularly where water-based play is concerned (see [CSG-100: Staff to Student Ratios on Excursions](#)).

Educators and Staff will:

- Ensure that water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. These activities must be supervised at all times, and containers or troughs will be emptied into the gardens after use. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities;
- Talk with children about staying safe in and around water, and lead by example; and
- Provide clean, fresh drinking water at all times. This water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming.

Operational Safety:

- Grey water systems and/or water tanks will be labelled with "do not drink" signage, and the children will be supervised in this area to ensure that they are not accessing this water for drinking. Educators will discuss with the children the fact that this water is for play only, and not for consumption;
- Hot water accessible to the children will be maintained at or below the required temperature of 43.5°C. Thermostatic valves will be tested and serviced as required; and
- A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be taken on excursions where the activities take place at or near a body of water.

For supporting policies and procedures, please refer to:

[CS-114: Excursions Policy](#)

[CS-131: Supervision and Staff Interaction Policy](#)



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7. Legislative Documentation and Standards

National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Aged Care, Canberra, ACT, 2009.

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

- **Standard 2.3: Each Child is Protected**

- Element 2.3.2: *Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury*

Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework, Canberra, ACT, 2009.

My Time, Our Place: The Framework for School Age Care in Australia.

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 167.

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 101(2), 168(2)(a)(iii)

8. Referenced External Documentation

Kennedy, A. & Stonehouse, A.

Shared Visions for Outside School Hours Care. Melbourne: Newton Press, 2004.

Kennedy, A. & Stonehouse, A.

Fact Sheet 4: Planning for Outdoor and Active Play.; Fact Sheet 6: Supervising Children; Fact Sheet 7: Supervising Excursions.

Shared Visions for Outside School Hours Care. Melbourne: Newton Press, 2004.

Tansey, S.

Outside School Hours Care Quality Assurance Factsheet #3: Safety in children's services.

NSW: National Childcare Accreditation Council Inc.

Tansey, S.

Quality Improvement and Accreditation System Factsheet #2: Safety in children's services.

NSW: National Childcare Accreditation Council Inc.



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9. Record Keeping

This policy is to be kept for three (3) years until review, unless there is a significant legislative or organisational change requiring earlier review.

The master copy is kept on Sharepoint (Policies) and is read-only in PDF form. All printed copies are uncontrolled.

10. Policy Owner

The Hutchins School Headmaster

11. Policy Review Details

Date

Changes made under review

13/2/2014

Minor textual changes made under review by BSe. No significant changes to policy content or intent.