

WATER SAFETY POLICY

QUALITY AREA 2 – VERSION 1.1



PURPOSE

This policy outlines how Denzil Don Kindergarten ensures water safety during all water-based activities, to protect the wellbeing of children, staff, families and others attending the program through effective supervision and risk management.

POLICY STATEMENT

The safety, health, wellbeing, rights and best interests of every child guide all decisions, actions and practices of Denzil Don Kindergarten staff.

VALUES

Denzil Don Kindergarten is committed to:

- Ensuring the safety, health, and wellbeing of children, with active supervision around water at all times
- Making sure all staff understand their roles and responsibilities in maintaining water safety
- Supporting children to explore the natural environment, including through water play
- Protecting children from the risks associated with drowning and near-fatal drowning incidents
- Promoting water safety awareness through the educational program
- Providing clear water safety information to staff, families, and visitors.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, all service staff (educational and non-educational), students, volunteers, parents/carers, children, and others attending the programs and activities of Denzil Don Kindergarten.

Parent/Carer Responsibilities Under This Policy:

Adhere to this policy and all other service policies at all times

Responsibilities: R indicates legislation requirement	Approved provider & persons with management or control	Nominated Supervisor and Person in Day-to-Day Charge	All service staff (educational & non-educational)	Contractors, Volunteers & Students
Ensure compliance with the <i>Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations</i>	R	√	√	√
Inform parents/carers of this policy, and its availability - on the service website, and in the kindergarten office https://denzildonkinder.org.au/policies/ (<i>Regulation 168(2)(a)(iii), 171</i>)	R	√	√	√
Ensure all service staff, students, volunteers, and casual/relief staff, are aware that this policy and support its implementation		R	√	√
Ensure permission is obtained from parents/carers for excursions to locations where there is a water hazard (<i>Regulation 102</i>) (<i>see Excursions and Service Events Policy</i>)	R	√	√	√
Ensure risk assessments are conducted, and water hazards are identified and considered both at the service and prior to excursions (<i>National Law: Section 16, Regulation 101</i>)	R	√	√	√

Conduct risk assessments for water hazards on or near the service premises that may be accessible to children (<i>National Law: Section 165</i>)	R	√	√	√
Adjust supervision strategies to address the activities being undertaken (<i>see Supervision of Children Policy</i>)		√	√	√
Ensure adequate supervision is provided based on the age and developmental needs of children undertaking water activities, including required ratios (<i>National Law: Section 165, Regulation 115</i>)	R	√	√	√
Provide increased supervision for excursions where there is a water hazard (<i>see Supervision of Children Policy</i>) (<i>National Law: Section 165</i>)	R	√	√	√
Ensure at least one educator with a current approved first aid qualification is in attendance and immediately available at all times (<i>Regulation 136</i>) * Denzil Don Kindergarten requires all educational staff are required to have ACECQA approved first aid qualifications. Qualifications are held on the <i>Staff Currency Register Team</i> * (<i>see Administration of First Aid Policy</i>)	R	√		
Conduct regular safety checks of the service premises, including daily outdoor checks for puddles or water-filled containers, particularly after heavy rain (<i>see Occupational Health and Safety Policy</i>) (<i>National Law: Section 167</i>)	R	R	√	√
Ensure any water hazards that cannot be actively supervised are isolated from children with a child-resistant barrier or fencing (<i>National Law: Section 167</i>)	R	R	√	√
Ensure doors, gates, and barriers restricting access to water hazards are kept closed and fences remain clear (<i>National Law: Section 167</i>)	R	√	√	√
Ensure containers of water are sealed with child-proof lids (<i>National Law: Section 167</i>)	R	R	√	√
Ensure wading or paddling pools, water play containers, and portable troughs, are emptied immediately after each use and stored upside down to prevent water collection when not in use	R	R	√	√
Inform the Approved Provider immediately if any serious or notifiable incidents occur at the service		√	√	√
Report serious incidents to DE (<i>Regulation 174, 175</i>) and notifiable incidents to WorkSafe Victoria	R	√	√	√
Provide water safety education as part of the program		√	√	√

BACKGROUND & LEGISLATION

BACKGROUND

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

Denzil Don Kindergarten's learning environment provides a range of experiences, including opportunities to explore natural elements such as water, which offer sensory-rich and open-ended play that supports children's curiosity and imagination. These experiences may occur at the service or during excursions and will always be carefully planned and supervised to ensure the safety of children and adults.

Educators are always vigilant, recognising and responding to potential water-related risks during everyday practice. Water safety applies to all areas where water is accessible, including indoor and outdoor environments, and excursions. Comprehensive risk assessments are always conducted to identify hazards and minimise risks associated with water-based activities.

Drowning is a leading cause of death for young children, particularly infants and toddlers, and non-fatal incidents can result in serious, lifelong consequences. Hazards include both large bodies of water (such as pools, rivers, creeks, and ponds) and smaller sources (such as buckets, containers, pet bowls, and areas where water may collect). Children can drown in only a few centimetres of water.

The *Keep Watch* program by Royal Life Saving Australia promotes four key actions to prevent drowning:

- Supervise children at all times around water
- Restrict access to water hazards using barriers and fencing
- Support water awareness education for children

- Ensure staff hold current first aid and resuscitation qualifications

LEGISLATION & STANDARDS

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic)
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

The most current amendments to listed legislation can be found at:

- Victorian Legislation – Victorian Law Today: www.legislation.vic.gov.au
- Commonwealth Legislation – Federal Register of Legislation: www.legislation.gov.au

DEFINITIONS

Regularly used policy terms can be found in the Definitions File located online denzildonkinder.org.au/policies/ and in the Policies Folder in the kindergarten office.

SOURCES & RELATED POLICIES

SOURCES

- [FUSE](#)
- [Kidsafe – Water Safety Fact Sheet](#)
- [Life Saving Victoria - School Swimming and Water Safety Toolkit](#)
- [Royal Life Saving Society – Australia](#)
- [Victoria Government – Water Safety](#)

RELATED POLICIES

- Administration of First Aid
- Child Safe Environment and Wellbeing
- Emergency and Evacuation
- Excursions and Service Events
- Nutrition, Oral Health and Active Play
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Supervision of Children

EVALUATION

To assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, we will:

- seek feedback from all parties affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
- notify all stakeholders affected by this policy at least 14 days before any significant change is made to the policy or its procedures, unless a lesser period is necessary due to risk (*Regulation 172 (2)*).

ATTACHMENTS

NIL

AUTHORISATIONS

This policy was adopted by the approved provider of Denzil Don Kindergarten on 24/05/2026.

REVIEW DATE: 24 / MAY / 2028