



# Water safety

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The National Law (Section 167) requires that approved providers take reasonable care to protect children from foreseeable risk of harm, injury and illness. Extra diligence is required by educators to ensure children are closely supervised when they are in or near water. This fact sheet includes water safety tips and links to useful information, including how to prepare and maintain a water safety policy and procedure.

## Water safety policy and procedures

Under regulation 168, education and care services are required to have policies and procedures in place for water safety, including safety during any water-based activities.

Information on how to develop and maintain policies and procedures is available via our Policies and procedures for ECS fact sheet

## Risk assessment

Under the National Regulations, education and care services are required to undertake risk assessments relating to all environments where education and care is provided to children (regulations 77, 82-83, 90-91, 92-96, 97, 100-102, 166, 168, 176, 178, 181-184), including those environments accessed during excursions or routine outings.

Fact sheets providing further information about:

- risk assessments
- excursions (including risk assessments for these and routine outings) can be accessed via: [www.esb.sa.gov.au/fact-sheets](http://www.esb.sa.gov.au/fact-sheets)

## Drowning hazards

There are many drowning hazards for children around home and other environments. Swimming pools (and toddler pools), spas, bath tubs, rivers, creeks, oceans, dams and lakes are some of the more obvious ones. However, there are less obvious drowning hazards such as:

- nappy (and other) buckets
- washing machines
- toilets
- water tanks
- water features
- fish ponds
- aquariums and fishbowls
- pets' water bowls
- eskies.

## Tips for water safety indoors

- Ensure that an adult always stays within an arm's reach of a child when he or she is in or near pools, spas, bathtubs, toilets or buckets.
- Empty all buckets, containers and wading pools immediately after use. Store them upside down and out of children's reach.
- Keep doors to the laundry and kitchen area closed when unattended by adults.
- Close top loading washing machines.
- Ensure bathroom areas are supervised when in use by children.
- Never leave a child unattended in the bath or around any other body of water.
- Never leave a child alone or in the care of older children when around equipment used to store water (such as water play troughs).

## Tips for water safety outdoors

- Always ensure that an adult is directly supervising children engaged in any water play and within an arm's reach of a child when he or she is in or near water.
- Ensure that pool gates and fences are secure and in working order.
- Gates should be self-closing and self-latching, and the latch should be out of children's reach.
- Regular maintenance and inspections are essential to help ensure a pool is safe.
- Empty any water container immediately after use by children (such as water play troughs).

## Links to useful information

- [Royal Life Saving Society Australia - Fact Sheets](#)
- [Royal Life Saving Society Australia - Home pool safety checklist](#)
- [Royal Life Saving Society Australia - Keep Watch](#)
- [Kidsafe - Water safety](#)

## Contact details

Early Childhood Services

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