

## **HEALTH & SAFETY – WATER SAFETY / POOLS**

### **POLICY**

Particular attention must be paid to children in the presence of water eg. nappy buckets, toilets, wading pools, spas, fish ponds, dams.

Family Day Care National Standards on adult:child ratios in relation to excursions must apply when children have access to swimming pools. Australian standards in relation to fencing around swimming pools apply automatically to all child care services, including Family Day Care.

All children must be closely supervised near water and direct adult supervision should be provided at all times when a swimming or wading pool is in use.

### **PROCEDURE**

1. All swimming pools must be fenced with a child proof fence that meets Australian Standards and State Government Building Regulations.
2. The gate in the pool fencing must have a child resistant self latching gate or lock which meets with Australian Standards.
3. All items which could assist a child to climb a pool fence must be removed.
4. Pool filters must be inaccessible to children in care.
5. A notice of resuscitation procedures is to be fixed permanently to the pool area.
6. Written permission shall be obtained from parents/guardians for children to use a swimming pool.
7. Children are to be kept under constant supervision and wear appropriate flotation aids whilst using the pool.
8. Ratios when swimming or water access will be:
  - 1:1 below 3 years of age
  - 1:2 from 3 year old onwards
9. All water containers capable of allowing immersion of a young child's face (ie. nappy buckets, animal drinking bowls) must be safely covered or inaccessible to children.
10. Plugs for baths/basins/troughs are to be kept out of reach of children.
11. All paddling pools must be emptied after use and stored to prevent the collection of water.
12. Spas/hot tubs are to be made inaccessible to children either by a locked cover or fencing which conforms with Australian Standards.
13. All ponds, creeks, rivers, irrigation channels and dams are to be made inaccessible to children.

Source: Mt Alexander FDC handbook  
National Law, Regulations and Standards (ACECQA 2011)  
Kidsafe Guidelines

Reviewed September 2005, September 2008, July 2009, July 2012