



WATER SAFETY

Policy Statement

Home Child Care Providers contracted by Compass Early Learning and Care take every precaution to ensure the safety of children in their care when participating in water activities. This refers to any water environment, manufactured or natural, that poses risks due to untested water or risk of submersion.

Policy Guidelines

Home Safety Guidelines

1. The use of and access to all standing bodies of water is prohibited. This includes ponds and recreational in-ground/above ground swimming, portable/"kiddie"/inflatable wading-type, and hydro-massage pools, hot tubs, and spas located on the premises of any single or multi-dwelling private residence, including a provider's own house, townhouse complex or apartment building where the provider resides.
2. Swimming pools and other standing bodies of water are fenced on four sides; the house doesn't count as a "side". The fence is climbing-resistant and at least 1.2 m (4 ft.) high. All areas of the fence are secure with no access points through or under the fence. Any gate to a pool/standing body of water area is self-closing and self-latching, and locked at all times. Prior to children arriving, gates to water are checked to ensure they are locked securely. The bottom of the pool will be free of debris. The main drain should be clearly visible from the swimming pool edge.
3. Hot tubs and spas not contained within the fenced pool area have a locking hard cover or are located in an area that can be closed and locked.
4. Water tables, buckets and pails are emptied when not in use. Open containers filled with water (such as rain barrels) are prohibited.

Water Safety Guidelines

1. Swimming activities occur only at swimming pools and beaches where water quality is monitored and tested consistent with Department of Health regulations, and lifeguards are present. Water quality must be verified by providers. If not publicly posted, the provider will check with the local health unit to ensure that the water has been tested and the water quality is considered acceptable for swimming.
2. All swimming activities are supervised by a certified lifeguard at all times. The lifeguard's sole responsibility is safety supervision and is not required to perform any other duties or be counted in adult/child ratio.
3. Children under the age of 3.8 will always be within arm's reach of an adult when they are in or around any water source. All children will be supervised by an adult when they are in or around water and will never be left alone in a pool or bathtub, even for a moment.
4. All participants under the age of six must wear a properly fitted personal floatation device at all times when participating in any water activity including boating, canoeing etc. Water wings, bathing suits with floatation devices in them, inflatable wings and other swim toys are not safety devices and are not used in place of a personal floatation device.
5. There are no swimming activities allowed for children under two years of age or who weigh under 20 lbs.
6. Prior to participating in any water activity, such as wading in creeks, HCC Providers will assess the risk of submersion based on the depth of the water, environmental conditions, and available supervision. If there is any doubt about the safety of the activity, the Provider will not proceed.
7. This policy exempts water play tables, sprinklers and splash pads.

Procedure

1. Guardians sign an *Excursions Information* form prior to the event.
2. HCC Providers review the Water Safety Guidelines.
3. While children are in water, HCC Providers repeatedly count the children in their care and have visual contact at all times.
4. The *Water Safety Policy* is reviewed upon the signing of the initial contract by the HCC Provider. It is reviewed before interaction with children and when revisions are made, by the HCC Provider, back-up providers, students, volunteers and persons who are ordinarily residents or who are regularly at the home child care premises. Reviews are recorded on *Document Review: Orientation* and/or *Document Review: Updates*.