

WATER SAFETY IN REGULATED CHILD CARE SETTINGS

POLICY

It is the policy of Cook's School Day Care Inc to make every attempt to ensure the safety of the children enrolled in our programs at all times.

LOCATIONS

This policy pertains to the following locations:

- Victoria Park Child Care Centre, 172 Queen Street, Cobourg.
- Cook's Home Child Care Agency locations where home child care providers reside, including single or multi-dwelling private residences, including the provider's own home, townhouse complex, or apartment building. Dwellings that have any standing body of water noted above must be enclosed (e.g., fence and latched gate).

PROCEDURES

IN SUPPORT OF PLAY-BASED LEARNING

The use of splash pads, sprinklers, hoses and water tables is encouraged.

STANDING BODIES OF WATER ON THE PREMISES

Centre-Based Program

Child Care Centre Licensing Manual, August 2016, Subsection 4.2– Sanitary Practices, Ontario Regulation 137/15

If wading/kiddie pools are used, the following minimum practices are recommended:

- Wading pools are filled with fresh water and sanitized/disinfected after each use.
- Children who are not fully toilet trained should wear diapers designed for swimming.
- Wading pools are stored in such a way that they don't collect rain water (to prevent mosquitoes etc.).
- Children should be within arm's reach of a staff person.

Home-Based Program

Regardless of age, no child enrolled with Cook's Home Child Care Agency, is permitted, at the premises, to use or have access to:

- Any standing body of water (e.g., pond, lake, etc.)
- Recreational body of water (e.g., any type of above ground pool, in-ground pool, hot tub, whirlpool, wading pool, "kiddie" pool, etc.).

RECREATIONAL BODIES OF WATER: PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS & BEACHES

Centre-Based Program - Consent

Parents/guardians are informed in advance if an outing to a swimming pool or beach is planned. The parent/guardian of every child participating in the excursion must sign a consent form applicable to the location being visited prior to the event.

Home-Based Program – Consent

Important:

- NO child under six years old who receives home child care is permitted to use or have access to any standing or recreational body of water on the premises.

- A child who is six years old or older is permitted to use or have access to a recreational body of water only when all safety measures indicated below are satisfied. Before a child who attends a home child care setting will be permitted to use any public swimming pool or beach, the **Permission Form: Public Swimming Pools & Beaches** form must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian. The form is also signed by the provider and ECE Consultant/Home Visitor.

Consent Forms

The consent form addresses:

- The provision of lifesaving equipment (e.g., life jackets).
- Adult supervision.

SAFETY

- There must be a lifeguard present who is at least 16 years of age and currently holds a lifeguard certificate that is not dated more than two years prior to the date on which they are acting as a lifeguard.
- Adults are encouraged to become familiar with basic water/swimming safety practices and precautions.
- Adults must hold a valid standard first aid certificate including infant & child CPR at all times.
- The children are accompanied and directly supervised by agency adults (18 years or older) at all times.
- Ministry of Education ratios must be adhered to at all times.
- The rules of public pools must be followed.

MODIFICATIONS TO THIS OR OTHER POLICIES

Any policy that does not respect and promote the dignity, independence, integration and equal opportunity of people with disabilities will be modified or removed. Our policies are maintained and updated regularly to reflect our practices, employees and best serve our customers.