

Instructions and Tips for Creating Compliant Policies and Procedures: Bodies of Water Policy and Procedures (O. Reg. 137/15, ss. 30.1)



Mandatory Information

Home child care agencies that permit children who are six years old and older to use or have access to standing or recreational bodies of water must have policies and procedures regarding children's use of and access to bodies of water to comply with requirements under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (CCEYA) and O. Reg. 137/15.

Other Considerations

The following are some tips and other considerations for developing policies regarding the use of and access to standing and recreational bodies of water on the premises. These are not mandatory, but they may improve the health, safety and well-being of children:

General

- Include a space to put the date that the policy was last developed and/or updated.
- Provide definitions for terms used throughout your document, (e.g. standing body of water, recreational body of water, access, etc.).
- Include the purpose of the policy and procedures (e.g., to support children's health, safety and well-being).

Consultation and Resources

- Require home child care providers to consult with their insurance providers about the appropriate coverage for activities involving standing and recreational bodies of water on and off the premises.
- Include other applicable regulatory requirements within your policy, including Regulation 656 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 [Public Pools] made under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* and local by-laws.
- Include resources, specific to basic water/swimming safety practices and precautions including,
 - Parachute Canada: Drowning Prevention,
 - Caring for Kids: Water Safety for Young Children
 - Red Cross: Swimming and Water Safety; and
 - Life Saving Society: Working to Prevent Drowning and Water-Related Injury.

Processes and Expectations to Include

- Be clear about the intent of your policies and procedures regarding children's use of and access to bodies of water and what you are trying to achieve through its implementation.
- Describe how your policies and procedures regarding children's use of and access to bodies of water links to the four foundations of the *How Does Learning Happen* framework.
- Include regulatory requirements under the CCEYA in the policy and procedures, including:

- The requirement that no child under six years old will use or have access to any standing or recreational body of water on the premises;
 - The requirement that no child six years old or older will use or have access to any standing or recreational body of water, unless a qualified lifeguard is present; and
 - The requirement to develop an outdoor play supervision plan for each child receiving child care at the premises; etc.
- Include expectations for the use of standing and recreational bodies of water where there is inclement weather (e.g., not having access to any standing or recreational bodies of water during a thunderstorm).
 - Consider and outline expectations for the use of lower-risk alternative water activity opportunities such as splash pads, sprinklers or water tablets.
 - Outline procedures, expectations and strategies for ensuring adequate supervision of children (e.g., having an additional adult present to support supervision) and procedures for the use of life-saving equipment.
 - Provide procedures and expectations for the use of and access to standing and recreational bodies of water located off the home child care premises.