

Home Child Care Policies and Procedures

Section: Contracting with Home Child Care

Policy No: 1397108

Policy Title: Standing and Recreational Bodies of Water in Home Child Care

Revision Date: August 2016

Authority:

Ministry of Education

Policy Statement:

Prohibit the use of and access to all standing bodies of water (e.g. 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 caregiver's own house, townhouse complex or apartment building where the provider resides, for children under the supervision/care of the contracted Home Child Caregiver in her/his capacity as a child care provider during operating hours. Exceptions to this Policy are listed under "Procedures".

Policy Intent

That there is consistent, province-wide requirements being implemented by the Ministry of Education regarding standing and recreational bodies of water

Definitions

Standing and Recreational Bodies of Water

- Pools, in ground and above ground
- "Kiddie" Inflatable wading-type pools
- Hydro-massage pools
- Hot tubs
- Spas

Procedures

This policy is applicable to all licensed Private Home Day Care agencies and their contracted private-home day care providers in the province.

Off Premises

- Caregivers may decide to use public pools where there is a qualified life guard on duty at all times in accordance with Regulation 565 (Public Pools)
- Children are accompanied and directly supervised by adults at all times
- Parents/guardians are advised for the field trip and have signed consent.
- Children may play at the water's edge on visits to creeks and streams. They must have signed consent and caregiver reviews safety practices with consultant and children before the visit.

- Visits to lakes or other bodies of water for swimming not on the caregiver premises require a life guard on duty. Caregiver is still to directly supervise children at all times and have signed consent from parents.

On Premises

- On premise splash pads, sprinklers, hoses and water tables under close supervision of adults at all times, as a safe alternative during cooling or play/sensory activities.
- All caregivers that have standing bodies or water/swimming pools are in compliance with local by-laws requiring private residences with standing bodies of water/pools etc. in their catchment area to have an enclosure (e.g. fence and a latched pool)
- Swimming pools must be fenced and or emptied and access from the house or yard must be locked. Ornamental ponds shall be treated as a pool.

Bodies of Water, Reg 30.1,(1),(2a,b). Use of a Pool on caregiver premises. Caregiver homes with a pool will be permitted to use the pool during child care hours if the following requirements are met:

1. No child under six years of age is present or permitted to have access to the pool
2. A lifeguard is present who is at least 16 years of age and is the holder of a minimum Bronze Cross certificate that is dated not more than two years prior to the date on which he or she is acting as a lifeguard. Must also have a current Standard First Aid certificate.
3. Lifeguard has a current Vulnerable Service Check and/or Declaration of Offence documented with Home Child Care Consultant
4. Caregiver is present and still responsible for all children in care.
5. Caregiver has Home Child Care approved written policies and procedures regarding the children's use of and access to the pool.
6. Pool approval form is completed, signed and approved by Home Child Care Supervisor
7. Parent(s) have completed Consent to Use Caregiver's Pool on the Premises form.