

## Policy and/or Procedure

<b>Category: Health</b>	<b>Title: Swimming Pool Safety</b>	<b>Policy Number:</b>
	<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Last Revised:</b>
<b>Authorized Signature(s):</b>		
_____	_____	
Owner/Operator	Director	

**BELIEF STATEMENT:**

( Name of the child care center) believes that swimming is one of the most effective forms of exercise. It helps children to develop their gross muscle strength and coordination. However, swimming pools also pose a great risk for serious injuries. To provide a safe and positive learning environment, all children must be constantly supervised and safety precautions must be strictly implemented.

**PLAN/PROCEDURE:**

1. Safety standards:
  - a. All swimming areas used by children shall meet the “Rules Governing Public Swimming Pools” in accordance with 15A NCAC 18A. 2500.<sup>2</sup> It shall be regularly inspected by the health department to ensure compliance.<sup>1</sup>
  - b. Legible safety rules for the use of swimming pool shall be posted in a conspicuous location, and caregivers responsible for supervision of children should read and review them often.<sup>1</sup> These rules shall state: <sup>2</sup>
    - location of a first-aid kit
    - only water toys are permitted
    - children shall not run or push one another
    - swimming is allowed only when an adult is present; and
    - glass objects are not allowed.
  - c. Any outdoor swimming pool which is located on the child care facility premise shall be enclosed by a fence and shall be separated from the remaining outdoor play area by that fence.<sup>2</sup>
  - d. For every 25 children participating in aquatic activities, there must be at least one person who has a current life guard training certificate. These certified lifeguards cannot be counted in the required staff-child ratio.<sup>2</sup>
  - e. Children under the age of three may not participating in aquatic activities unless it is necessary to implement the child’s Individualized Family Service Plan.<sup>2</sup>
  - f. To prevent drowning or become physically incapacitated due to injuries received in swimming pool accidents, safety measures should be in place including:
    - There should be a physical barrier in the swimming pool to prevent younger children from crossing over to the deep end of the swimming pool by accident
    - Children are not allowed to use diving board or dive head first into the shallow end of pool
    - The storage of the pool chemicals should be in a locked secure area
2. Supervision:
  - a. Children shall be adequately supervised by center staff at all times while participating in aquatic activities.<sup>2</sup>
    - The following staff-child ratio must be maintained during aquatic activities:
 

Age of children	Ratio staff/children
3-4 years	1/8
4-5 years	1/10
5 years or older	1/13
    - Regardless of the number of children participating, a minimum of two staff members must supervise aquatic activities.

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- Half the center staff needed to meet staff-child ratios must be in the water and other half must be out of the water. If an uneven number of staff is needed to meet the required staff-child ratio, the majority shall be in the water.
    - \* In some facilities, the swimming pool operator prohibits day care staff from being in the water, specifically during lessons. The staff must be within a few feet of the lesson at pool side and be able to see and hear the children.
  - Staff must be positioned in pre-assigned areas that will allow them at all times to hear, see, and respond quickly to the children.
- b. Use of the bathroom/diaper change area:
- Staff-children ratio must be maintained at all times (minimum of two staff). When taking a child for toileting/diaper change, an extra staff member will be called upon to perform this routine care.
3. Exclusion from swimming:
- a. Children or staff who have a contagious disease or open wound are prohibited from using the pool.
- b. Children who exhibit dangerous behavior in or around the pool, such as pushing other children, rough play, holding each other under water or running at poolside:
- These children will be asked to leave the pool and sit at a quiet area where it is easily supervised by the staff. Staff will explain to them the danger of their behavior and will let them return into the pool when they are ready (no longer than one minute/age in years).
  - If these dangerous behaviors persist, a parent meeting will be called. A plan will be formed with input from parent to help the children understand the safety rules around the swimming pool.
  - If none of methods mentioned above work, for the safety of all children, these children will be excluded from swimming activities.
4. Transportation:  
If the swimming facility is not on the child care premises, please follow the procedures in "Transportation" policy to transport the children.
5. Notification:
- Staff must sign and date statements that they have reviewed the policies.<sup>2</sup>
  - This policy will be reviewed with the parents upon a child's enrollment. Parent will sign and receive a copy of the policy.

For Parents:

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Enrollment \_\_\_\_\_

Swimming pool safety policy has been reviewed by and a copy received by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

For Child care providers:

Staff's name \_\_\_\_\_

I have reviewed and understand the Swimming Pool Safety Policy

\_\_\_\_\_  
Staff Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_

**BACKGROUND:** This policy is consistent with DCD rules. This policy applies to all employees of the child care center.

**NOTIFICATION:**

- ◆ Staff will receive training during new employee orientation and will be evaluated for competency. Staff must read this policy found in the employee handbook and sign to confirm notification.
- ◆ Families will receive this information in the handbook, receive a copy of the policy and will sign receipt of policy.

**REFERENCE:** (Source) <sup>1</sup>. Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out-of- Home Child Care, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Standards: 5.214, 5.215  
<sup>2</sup>. NC Child Care Rule 10A NCAC 09.1403,

**ATTACHMENTS:** Transportation policy

**REVIEWED ANNUALLY:** \_\_\_\_\_

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1.  
2.