



## STANDING AND RECREATIONAL BODIES OF WATER POLICY

### WEST NIPISSING CHILD CARE CORPORATION

#### POLICY

##### Purpose

- The ministry supports play-based learning and sensory exploration and encourages the use of **on-premise splash pads, sprinklers, hoses or water tables**, under close supervision of adults at all times, as safer alternatives during cooling or play / sensory activities.
- The West Nipissing Child Care Corporation has the primary mandate of the protection, safety and well-being of every child they serve. This policy is a framework and a guideline regarding water safety to be followed by all employees, providers, volunteers and students where children receiving home-based child care services have access to any standing or recreational bodies of water.

##### Administrative Guidelines

##### Water Safety Best Practices for All Licensed Child Care Operators

##### Bodies of water on Premises

- On-site standing and recreational bodies of water include:
  - Pools, in-ground and above ground
  - "Kiddie" Inflatable wading-type pools
  - Hydro-massage pools
  - Hot tubs
  - Spas
- On premise splash pads, sprinklers, hoses and water tables under close supervision of adults at all times, can also be considered as a safe alternative during cooling or play/sensory activities.
- Under Ontario Regulation 137/15 30.1 (1), no child under six (6) years old who receives home-based child care at the premises is permitted to use or have access to any standing or recreational body of water on the premises.
- If a provider permits children who are six (6) years old or older who receive home-based child care at the premises to use or have access to a standing or recreational body of water at the premises, he or she must ensure that **at all times** when the children use or have access to the body of water, a lifeguard and the provider are present.



- If the home-based child care provider is a certified lifeguard, she/he may act in the role of the lifeguard; supervision of the entire group of children must be assured when this role is taken. For more information, please consult sub-section 2.9 (Water/swimming safety) of the [Home Child Care Centre Licensing Manual](#).
- All home-based child care providers that have standing bodies of water/swimming pools must ensure that they 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 gate).

## Rules for Bodies of Water Off-premises

### Public Pools

- Child care operators may decide to have children attend and use public pools (e.g. for swimming lessons). In this case, it is **strongly recommended that children attend regulated “public pools”** (see the *Health Promotion and Protection Act*, and Regulation 565 (Public Pools) where:
  - there is a qualified lifeguard(s) on duty at all times in accordance with Regulation 565;
  - the rules of the public pool are followed;
  - the children are accompanied and directly supervised by adults at all times (e.g. a person who is 18 years or older);
  - *CCEYA 2014* ratios / maximum number of children receiving care in the PHDC home location are maintained at all times; and
  - parents/guardians are advised of the field trip and have signed a consent form.
- No child under 6 years of age can have access to bodies of water (pool, Jacuzzi).
- For children, 6 years of age and over (inclusive of privately placed children) the following are required:
  - A lifeguard present at all times must be 16 years of age and older. The lifeguard certificate must not be more than two years old.
  - A parental consent form must be signed by the parent or caregiver.
  - Additional supervision is required and life-safe equipment-life jackets must be worn.
  - The provider can be the lifeguard but must have a plan in place for supervision.

### Other Bodies of Water for Swimming

- 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.



### Off-Premise Creeks, Streams, Ponds

- Providers may wish to bring children to play at the water's edge on visits to creeks and streams. In order to do this, providers must:
  - have signed parental consent for the activity
  - ensure additional adult supervision at all times
  - consider the age and ability of each individual/child
  - review safety practices with all adults and children before the visit.

I \_\_\_\_\_, (employee, provider, student, volunteer) understand and support the West Nipissing Child Care Corporation's *Standing and Recreational Bodies of Water Policy*.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_