

COVENANT CHILD CARE AQUATIC ACTIVITIES POLICY

Adopted 4.21.2021

WATER SAFETY AND LIFEGUARDS

Children are only allowed into the water if the certified water safety attendant or lifeguard is on duty.

Children are not allowed near the water without an adult present.

Lifeguard Certificate or Water Safety Training Certificate is posted.

The certifications of staff are reviewed annually to ensure compliance with DHHS Child Care Licensing Rules around supervision of aquatic activities.

There is no breakable glass in the water area.

The pool has sufficient clarity. The bottom of pool is clearly visible at deepest part.

When using the pool, staff members take appropriate measures to check the chemical composition of the pool and ensure the water is safe and healthy for swimmers.

Pool area is clear of debris, clutter, and pool toys.

Each day upon arrival at the water area, staff members ensure that the water play area is free of clutter.

All life saving equipment is conspicuously and conveniently on hand.

All staff members are made aware of the location of all equipment and receive orientation on how to use it.

First aid kit is readily available.

First aid kit is inventoried monthly to ensure that the kit is fully stocked to meet the health and safety needs of the children in care.

Emergency plan is readily available to staff.

Staff members review the Emergency plan upon hiring as part of the orientation process and sign off that they have read the plan and all policies. Staff members have opportunities to read the emergency plan, as necessary.

Legible water safety rules are posted at the pool; at the beginning of each water activity, the water safety rules are reviewed with the children. The water safety checklist is completed by staff supervising water activity.

Water safety rules are reviewed annually to ensure that they continue to meet the health and safety needs of children in the program.

All children have written permission to participate in water activities. Documentation of written permission must be placed in each child's file prior to beginning water activities.

All children belonging to the group of the center will be identifiable by an arm band placed on every child's upper arm. The center staff will also be identified by the same arm band.

Non-swimmers are visually identifiable by use of a Coast Guard approved life vest and it shall be worn by all non-swimmers participating in water activities.

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For every 25 children in care participating in aquatic activities, there will be at least one person who has a current lifeguard training certificate. The lifeguard training certificate will be issued by the Red Cross or other training determined by the Division to be equivalent to the Red Cross training, appropriate for both the type of body of water and type of aquatic activities. The lifeguard will not be counted in child staff ratios required for aquatic activities.

Lifeguards employed by the childcare center, will have a copy of the lifeguard training certificate in his/her personnel file.

OFF SITE SWIMMING

When children are off-site to go swimming, the administrator will ensure that the pool has enough lifeguards with the appropriate training. One certified lifeguard for every 25 children in care participating in aquatic activities.

The center Transportation Policy will be followed to transport children to the off site location.

STAFF CHILD RATIOS DURING AQUATIC ACTIVITIES

- Regardless of the number of children participating, a minimum of two staff members must supervise aquatic activities.
- Children under the age of three cannot participate in aquatic activities except, when necessary, to implement any child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- The staff-child ratios are as follows:

AGE OF CHILDREN RATIO STAFF/CHILDREN	
3 – 4 YEARS	1:8
4 – 5 YEARS	1:10
5 YEARS AND OLDER	1:13

- At no time should there be fewer than two staff members supervising aquatic activities.
- Staff will conduct frequent, formal head counts to ensure all children are safe and accounted for.

SUPERVISION OF AQUATIC ACTIVITIES

Children must be adequately supervised by center staff at all times.

Adequate supervision means that half of the center staff needed to meet the staff-ratios for aquatic activities is in the water and the other half is out of the water. If an uneven number of staff are needed to meet the required staff-child ratios, the majority of staff must be in the pool.

Prior to staff entering the water, staff must be stationed in pre-assigned areas.

Staff must be stationed in pre-assigned areas that always enable them to hear, see, and respond quickly to the children who are in water and children who are out of the water.

Staff must devote their full attention to supervising the children in their pre-assigned areas of coverage and must communicate with one another about children moving from one area to another area.

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Adequate supervision is also necessary while children are using changing rooms, rest rooms, and while they are moving to and from the transportation vehicle to the activity area.

Caregivers should evaluate each child's skill level in the water. A test by a certified lifeguard/instructor is the best way to determine a child's skill level. However, regardless of an individual's skill level, close supervision always is imperative.

CENTER POLICIES FOR AQUATIC ACTIVITIES

Before staff first supervise children during an aquatic activity, and annually thereafter, staff must sign and date statements that they have reviewed the center policies related to aquatic activities. The signed and dated statements that they have reviewed the center's policy must be maintained in the staff person's file

for one year or until it is superseded by a new statement.

Adequate Supervision: Half of the center staff required to meet staff: child must be in the pool with the children in pre-assigned areas that will enable for the staff to see, hear, and respond quickly to children in the water. The other half of the staff must be outside of the pool.

A staff floater will be required to accompany children to the restroom and in dressing rooms.

Children who do not follow the POOL RULES will be removed from the pool, placed in time out and picked up by the director and taken back to the center. The child's parent will be notified by way of a behavioral report and acknowledge by signature.

The center's Transportation and Field Trip Policy will be followed to and from the pool.

The center director will contact the pool operator to obtain their rules and guidelines. The director will share with center staff. The rules and guidelines of the pool operation will not conflict with childcare requirements related to aquatic activities.

Only pools with a filtration system and chemical treatment are permitted for use by children.

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Water Safety and Pool Checklist

Person in charge (PIC) completing checklist: _____ Date: _____

Location of Pool: _____ Name of Pool Operator: _____

Number of children attending: _____ Number of Staff Required to meet ratio plus one: _____

	Y	N
All children have written permission to participate in water activities that includes a Medical Authorization for Emergency Medical Treatment. A copy of the permission slip is in the Ready to Go File that is kept with the on-site staff floater.		
The pool operator has certified the sanitation/chemical requirements for the pool.		
Is there a Red Cross Certified Lifeguard on duty for each group of 25 children?		
There is no breakable glass in the water area.		
The pool has sufficient clarity. The bottom of pool is clearly visible at deepest part.		
Pool area is clear of debris, clutter, and pool toys.		
All life saving equipment is conspicuous.		
All staff members are made aware of the location of all life saving equipment.		
First aid kit is readily available, and all staff members know the location.		
Legible water safety rules are posted at the pool;		
The safety rules have been reviewed with the children and all staff.		
All staff and children attending the center have an arm band that identifies them belonging to the group. All Non-swimmers are visually identifiable by use of a Coast Guard approved life vest has been placed on all non-swimmers participating in water activities.		
Sunscreen has been applied on each child in care.		
A water cooler and paper cups are provided for children as needed by the center.		
The PIC always has a working cell phone available for use and on their person.		
All staff members have been oriented to their pre-assigned location to supervise the children in and out of the water. The staff can see, hear, and respond quickly to children in the water. Primary caregivers have been assigned to all children.		

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Review the Emergency Plan with all staff attending the outing.		
PIC has a whistle for emergencies.		
A headcount will be taken every 30 minutes by the PIC to ensure that all children are accounted for.		

COVENANT CHILD CARE

Aquatic Emergency Plan Protocol

- In case of emergency, the PIC will respond by blowing a whistle to alert the lifeguard.
- Staff members in the pool will identify the person in distress and respond as quickly as possible.
- In case of drowning, the first person to reach the person first will remove the person from the pool and place them on the pool deck and begin CPR.
- The Person in charge will call 911 and the emergency contact for the child or staff member.
- The Person in charge will contact the director of the childcare program.
- All children attending the outing will be removed from the pool and taken to a designated area while emergency procedures are followed.
- A headcount will be taken to ensure that all children are accounted for.
- When emergency personnel arrive, if the parent or guardian has not arrived, the Person in Charge will go to the hospital with the child in the emergency transport.
- The remaining staff will transport all children back to the center; the outing has ended.
- The center will offer spiritual and emotional support to the staff and children.

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