

# Preschool risk assessment

This risk assessment can be used by preschools to identify any risks to the safety, health or wellbeing of children while being educated and cared for at a preschool and specify how they will be managed and minimised.

This risk assessment must be completed for maintain compliance with the following preschool-specific policy documents:

- [Managing water hazards in preschool policy and procedures](#)<sup>1</sup>

Background information			
Preschool name:	Rosebery Preschool	Date:	26/01/2026
Title of assessment:	Managing water hazards in preschool	Name of person conducting assessment:	Imogen McIlwaine

Risk identified	Risk assessment (use matrix)	Elimination or control measures	Who	When
Water play activities using water troughs	High - Extreme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A staff member must be in a position to respond or intervene immediately if required</li> <li>• Water containers must be emptied after water play</li> <li>• Children must be instructed not to drink water used in water play activities</li> </ul>	All educators	During water play activities
Water play activities using shallow trays	High - Extreme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A staff member must be in a position to respond or intervene immediately if required</li> <li>• Water containers must be emptied after water play</li> <li>• Children must be instructed not to drink water used in water play activities</li> <li>• Checking trays for broken pieces and removing any trays that are broken.</li> </ul>	All educators	During water play activities

<sup>1,2,4</sup> <https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/early-childhood-education-and-care/preschool-specific-policy>

	<i>Water play activities involving slides</i>	<i>High - Extreme</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>A staff member must be in a position to respond or intervene immediately</i></li> <li><i>Managing one student at a time.</i></li> <li><i>Providing a mat at bottom of slide</i></li> <li><i>Children are to check space and await educator prompt to go.</i></li> </ul>	<i>All educators</i>	<i>During water play activities</i>
	<i>Water play activities using ice</i>	<i>High - Extreme</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Ice is to be kept in designated areas in which educators have set up to reduce injury.</i></li> </ul>	<i>All educators</i>	<i>During water play activities</i>

The risk matrix is used to assess the level of the risk by considering the likelihood of the risk against the severity of the consequence. The mitigation strategy should be commensurate with the level of the risk.

Risk Matrix						
		Consequence				
		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Likelihood	Almost certain	Moderate	High	High	Extreme	Extreme
	Likely	Moderate	Moderate	High	Extreme	Extreme
	Possible	Low	Moderate	High	High	Extreme
	Unlikely	Low	Low	Moderate	High	High
	Rare	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	High

#### Likelihood

Descriptor	Definition
Rare	May occur somewhere, sometime, for example, once in a lifetime or once in 100 years
Unlikely	May occur somewhere within the Department of Education over an extended period of time
Possible	May occur several times across the Department of Education or in a region over a period of time
Likely	May be anticipated multiple times over a period of time May occur once every few repetitions of the activity or event
Almost certain	Prone to occur regularly It is anticipated for each repetition of the activity or event

#### Consequence

Descriptor	Definition
Insignificant	No injury
Minor	No injury
Moderate	Injury or ill health requiring medical attention
Major	Injury or ill health requiring hospital admission
Catastrophic	Fatality