

Childcare Aquatic Activity Policy

10A NCAC 09 .1403 ACTIVITIES INVOLVING WATER IN CHILD CARE CENTERS

(a) The requirements in this Rule apply to child care center "aquatic activities," which are defined as activities that take place in or around a body of water such as swimming, swimming instruction, wading, and visits to water parks. Aquatic activities do not include water play activities such as water table play, slip and slide activities, or playing in sprinklers.

General Supervision

- At least 1 person who has a current lifeguard training certificate must be at the site for every 25 children in care that are participating in aquatic activities. The certified lifeguards will not be counted in child/staff ratios.
- The following staff/child ratios shall be maintained whenever children participate in aquatic activities. 3 to 4 years 1/8, 4 to 5 years 1/10, 5 years and older 1/13. Notwithstanding the staff/child ratios, at no time shall there be fewer than two staff members supervising the aquatic activity.
- Staff will devote their full attention to supervising the children in the pre-assigned areas of coverage and shall communicate with one another about children moving from one area to another. Adequate supervision must be maintained at all times.
- Half of the staff needed to meet staff/child ratios must be in the water and the other half must be out of the water. If an uneven number of staff is needed to meet the required staff ratios, the majority shall be in the water. Those stationed outside the water must be stationed alongside the pool so visual supervision is maintained. Positions will be assigned before arrival to assure that staff will be able to see, hear and respond quickly to the children.
- The YMCA of Catawba Valley will not allow children to be in public restrooms or dressing rooms with the general public present.
- Staff must check restrooms and dressing rooms to determine that no one is inside before allowing children in their care to enter public restrooms
- Staff should remain at the entrance to deter others from entering while the children are inside.
- While staff is on duty during aquatic activities, the use of a personal cell phone to make/take calls or text messages is prohibited.
- All staff regulations such as no tobacco use, dress code and conduct are enforced on aquatic activities.

Supervision of Attending to Personal Needs of the Children (restroom, changing clothes, etc.)

- A staff member that is outside the water will supervise the children with their personal needs away from the pool area.
- A staff member will never assist a child with their clothing unless necessary and there will always be another staff member in attendance.
- Staff in the water should be notified of any children that are leaving the pool area and should be notified upon their return.
- All children must come to the program with appropriate sunscreen on for protection. After 1-1½ hours of aquatic play the children will have the opportunity to re-apply their sunscreen.

Aquatic Safety Hazards

- Children must follow the posted rules for the aquatic activity at all times.
- Running while participating in an aquatic activity is prohibited.
- Children are not allowed to participate in horseplay in or around the water.
- Children must stay within the designated area unless escorted by a staff member.

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- Pool staff must be notified on any instance where medical or first aid attention is necessary. (Example: cuts, falls, scrapes, vomiting of swallowed water, etc.)
- All children must pass a swim test (given by the lifeguards) at each visit to an aquatic activity to be allowed to swim in the deep area of the water.

Discipline during Aquatic Activities

- Staff and/or lifeguards will review with the children safety practices at each visit to an aquatic activity and will be reminded of the consequences of breaking these rules.
- Rules that are posted at the aquatic activity apply to all children.
- When any child does not follow the established rules for the aquatic activity they may be corrected by the lifeguard on duty or staff of the program.
- The discipline and behavior policy of the YMCA of Catawba Valley is strictly enforced during aquatic activities. Any child that repeatedly disregards this policy will be disciplined accordingly. This discipline could result in missed swim time.

In the event of an emergency:

- per .1403(g)(5) children shall be directed to exit the water during an emergency.
- The site director on duty will contact the parents.
- The site director, or person in charge, will ask if the parent would like the EMS to be contacted.
- If contact cannot be made with the parents or emergency contacts, the director needs to make the decision to contact the EMS at that time. By calling 9-1-1 first responders will be dispatched to the site for immediate assistance.

Off Premise and Transportation Policies and Procedures

All children must have a signed permission slip and signed transportation policy in order to travel. Children are expected to adhere to all discipline policies when traveling. Failure to do so, may lead to the child being excluded from future field trips. The YMCA of Catawba Valley, Burke County Public Schools or other contracted service providers covers all buses, drivers, and transportation for childcare trips. Staff will conduct and record head counts prior to leaving the site, once the children are seated on the bus, upon arrival at the destination, and after exiting the bus.

Additionally, staff will conduct and record headcounts every thirty minutes. Seating charts will be made prior to departure and children will sit in assigned seats on the bus. Each child being transported will have the following information available: their name, photograph, and emergency contact information and emergency medical care information form; as well as, written permission from parent/guardian for participation in aquatic activities, transportation, and off-premise activity. In addition, a list of the children being transported and bus head count sheets and seating chart will be available.

By signing this document, you are stating that you have read and agree with the policies listed above. You are further stating that you give permission for your child to participate in all aquatic activities.