

Standing and Recreational Bodies of Water

Name of Home Child Care Agency: Little Lambs Home Daycare Inc.

Date Policy and Procedures Established: November 2019

Date Policy and Procedures Updated: June 2024 (annually thereafter or as needed)

Purpose

It is the policy of Little Lambs Home Daycare to make every attempt to ensure the safety of the children enrolled in our programs at all times. The policies and procedures relating to bodies of water must be reviewed with home child care providers, volunteers and students, persons who are ordinarily residents of the premises or regularly at the premises, home child care visitors and employees of Little Lambs Home Daycare. These policies are monitored for compliance and contraventions in accordance with Ontario REG 137/15

This policy pertains to:

Little Lambs Home Daycare Agency locations where home child care providers reside, including single or multi-dwelling private residences, including the provider's own home, townhouse complex, or apartment building. Dwellings that have any standing body of water noted above must be enclosed (e.g., fence and latched gate).

Policy

Use of Splash Pads, Sprinklers, Hoses, and Water Tables are encouraged for safer play and sensory activities.

Standing Bodies of Water ON the Premises

- **Children Under 6 Years Old:** Prohibited from using or accessing any standing or recreational body of water on the premises.
- **Children 6 Years Old and Over:** May access standing or recreational bodies of water (e.g., ponds, pools) on the premises only if a certified lifeguard is present.
 - *If the home child care provider is a certified lifeguard, they may supervise the activity, provided no children under six years old are present.*

Lifeguard Requirements

- Lifeguards must follow all agency policies related to "volunteer and student supervision," including a criminal reference check and vulnerable sector screening.
- Lifeguards must be at least 16 years old with a valid lifeguard certificate dated within the past two years.
- Little Lambs must be notified of any planned water activities requiring a lifeguard.
- Parents/guardians must complete and sign permission forms for their children's participation. The form must also be signed by the provider and ECE Consultant/Home Visitor.

Public Swimming Pools and Beaches

Field trips to public swimming pools and beaches are strongly discouraged due to increased risks but may be permitted on a case-by-case basis, considering provider experience, group dynamics, and parent/guardian support.

- **Children Under 6 Years Old:**
 - Public Pools: Not permitted without a lifeguard qualified under Ontario Regulation 565.

- Public Beaches: Not permitted.
- **Children 6 Years Old and Over:**
 - Public Pools: Permitted with a qualified lifeguard present.
 - Public Beaches: Permitted where water quality is monitored and lifeguards are present.

Procedures for Public Swimming Pools and Beaches

- **Permission Form:** Before a child who attends home child care will be permitted to use any public swimming pool or beach, the permission form: Public Swimming Pools & Beaches form must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian. The form is also signed by the provider and ECE Consultant/Home Visitor.
- **Safety Measures:**
 - Provision of lifesaving equipment (e.g., life jackets).
 - Adults supervising must hold a valid standard first aid certificate, including infant and child CPR.
 - Adults supervising must be familiar with basic water/swimming safety practices and precautions. *(resource list provided on last page)*
 - Adherence to Ministry of Education ratios and public pool rules.
 - Direct supervision by adults (18 years or older) at all times.
 - A phone needs to be within reach of the pool at all times.

Additional Requirements

- If the provider's own children (under 10 years) participate in water activities, an additional adult (approved volunteer/agency staff) is required unless the total number of children does not exceed six (and/or the maximum ratio set out in the Home Child Care Provider Agreement).
- Home child care providers are required to consult with their insurance providers about the appropriate coverage for activities involving standing and recreational bodies of water on and off the premises. Personal Home Daycare Insurance coverage above and beyond Little Lambs' Liability and Abuse insurance must be valid and onfile prior to accessing any bodies of water on the premises, regardless of the children's ages.

Resource list for basic water/swimming safety practices and precautions

- [Parachute Drowning Prevention](#)
- [Canadian Pediatric Society - Caring for Kids Water Safety](#)
- [Red Cross Swimming and Water Safety Tips](#)
- [Life Saving Society Prevent Drowning and Water-Related Injury](#)