

# Little Lambs Home Daycare

## Standing and Recreational Bodies of Water Policy

### POLICY

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).

### PROCEDURES

#### IN SUPPORT OF PLAY-BASED LEARNING

The use of splash pads, sprinklers, hoses and water tables is encouraged.

#### STANDING BODIES OF WATER ON THE PREMISES

No child under the age of 6 years old enrolled with Little Lambs Home Daycare, is permitted, at the premises, to use or have access to:

- Any standing body of water (e.g., pond, lake, etc.)
- Recreational body of water (e.g., any type of above ground pool, in-ground pool, hot tub, whirlpool, wading pool, "kiddie" pool, etc.).

Children over the age of 6 years old enrolled with Little Lambs Home Daycare may be permitted at the premises, to use or have access to:

- Any standing body of water (e.g., pond, lake, etc.)
- Recreational body of water (e.g., any type of above ground pool, in-ground pool, hot tub, whirlpool, wading pool, "kiddie" pool, etc.).
- **Only if there is a certified lifeguard present.**
  - If the home child care provider is a certified life guard, they may act in the role of the lifeguard. Consideration must be given to the entire group of children when this role is taken. The provider may not assume this role if any children present at

# Little Lambs Home Daycare

the child care premises for the purpose of receiving child care are under the age of 6 years old, therefore not participating in the swimming activity. The provider would not be able to properly supervise those children participating in water activities if they are also supervising younger children.

- The certified lifeguard present at the home child care premises must follow all agency policies and procedures related to “volunteer and student supervision policy”. Including but not limited to: criminal reference check and vulnerable sector screening.
- The certified lifeguard must be at least 16 years of age and hold a lifeguard certificate that is not dated more than two years prior to the date on which they are acting as a lifeguard.
- Little Lambs must be made aware of any planned water activities where a certified lifeguard is required.
- Permission forms must be completed by the parent/guardian of each child participating. The form is also signed by the provider and ECE Consultant/Home Visitor.

## **PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS & BEACHES**

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.

### **Consent Forms**

The consent form addresses:

- The provision of lifesaving equipment (e.g., life jackets).
- Adult supervision.

### **SAFETY**

- Adults are encouraged to become familiar with basic water/swimming safety practices and precautions.
- Adults must hold a valid standard first aid certificate including infant & child CPR at all times.
- The children are accompanied and directly supervised by agency adults (18 years or older) at all times.
- Ministry of Education ratios must be adhered to at all times.
- The rules of public pools must be followed.

Extended Note: Supervision

# Little Lambs Home Daycare

If the home child care providers own children who do not count in their home child care ratios but are younger than 10 years of age are attending or participating in planned water activities then an additional adult (approved volunteer/agency staff) is required for supervision purposes.

**However:**

- If the total number of children including the home child care provider's children do not exceed 6 then an additional adult for supervision purposes is not required.