Turner School Hydrotherapy Guidelines

GUIDE LINE TITLE: Turner School Hydrotherapy Guidelines
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Context
The Turner School hydrotherapy pool is located in the David Street building and is a purpose built heated pool specifically designed for the use of students with disabilities. At Turner School this meets the needs of students with identified needs that are a part of the school community, allowing them to access the therapeutic benefits of the program within the school context.

Hydrotherapy is a very broad term encompassing many types of activity and therapy in warm water. At Turner School this term refers to water familiarisation, activities and exercise for students in the school pool heated to 34 degrees.

Related documents (Policy/policies to be read in conjunction with)
Hydrotherapy Pools- School Use (2005) HPS200508
Turner School Hydrotherapy Permissions forms (this includes parental permission and medical clearance)

Identification of students
1.1 Most children accessing Hydrotherapy at Turner School have a disability placement at the school and are identified through the ILP process for participation in a hydrotherapy program.
1.2 Other children may be identified for the program by the school through work with families and therapists. For these children, the school will work in conjunction with parents/carers and therapists to plan for their participation.

Medical Status Clarification and Permissions
2.1 All students participating in Hydrotherapy at Turner School must have completed written clearance from their registered medical practitioner prior to commencing.
2.2 All students must have completed parental permission forms prior to commencing.
Staffing and Supervision
3.1 The student / staff ratio is a minimum of 2 staff to a maximum of 10 students.
3.2 At least one of the adults in the pool area will have First Aid Qualifications, including CPR.

Communication with Parents
4.1 Targeted Hydrotherapy goals are written into Individual Learning Plans and reported against as a part of the plan’s review process.
4.2 Parents are asked to notify the school if they are aware of any reasons why a child should be excluded from the program. This is usually for medical reasons.

Student Health
5.1 Children who are in nappies or pull-ups are required to wear plastic pants under swimmers or wetsuit pants over their swimmers. (These are to be provided by parents/carers).
5.2 Children will be excluded from using the hydrotherapy pool when the following conditions are present: open wounds, colds, sores, gastrointestinal conditions, infections (e.g. urinary, skin, eye, ear), skin conditions (e.g. tinea, rashes), recent radiotherapy
5.3 Children who have hypertension, compressed cardiac function respiratory conditions or multiple sclerosis are excluded from hydrotherapy sessions.
5.4 Any faecal matter in the pool requires immediate evacuation of students out of the water and closure of the pool until it has been cleared by the pool maintenance and cleaning company. Notify the school’s Business Manager immediately on 62056622.

Pool Operation and Maintenance
6.1 The pool water is kept at 34 Degrees Celsius.
6.2 Soiled nappies are placed in the nappy bin provided (in toilet area).
6.3 Before entering the pool all students use the toilet and shower
6.4 All students use the shower after using the pool.

Risk Assessment and Safety
7.1 Risk assessments are completed by each participating class teacher to suit the individual needs of the class. This also includes the risk treatment and prevention measure for each identified risk. A third adult will also be in the pool area to support the safety of all.
7.2 The pool area is to be kept locked. The key is stored in the David Street office. Groups accessing the pool collect and return the key to this office.
7.3 Doors to the pool area are not to be propped open at any time.
7.4 Use of the pool’s hoist needs to be actioned by staff members that have been trained in safe lifting and manual handling as well as the operation of the hoist.
7.5 No student should enter the pool area without an adult supervising them.
7.6 Students should be informed about expectations to ensure safe practices are followed in the water and in the pool area.
7.7 External groups hiring/using the pool follow usual induction processes and expectations as outlined by the school’s Business Manager.

**Frequency of Use**
8.1 Therapy sessions are conducted weekly, or as appropriate, by a classroom teacher and LSA.
8.2 Hydrotherapy sessions are of no more than 30 minutes.

**Hydrotherapy Program**
9.1 Hydrotherapy sessions will specifically target the physical therapy needs of children. If students receive physical therapy by a therapist from Therapy ACT or privately, a hydrotherapy plan will support the teacher to accurately plan activities for each student.
9.2 The Hydrotherapy Program includes an initial orientation for students about pool protocols and safety. Students should receive regular reminders about safety.