

Policy title	2.18 Water Safety
Policy type	Management
Group	Family and Children

Rationale

The *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011* (Regulation 168(2)(a)(iii)) requires the approved Responsible Person to have a policy and procedures for water safety, including safety during any water-based activities.

Moonee Valley City Council recognises the sensory benefits gained by children engaged in safe water play activities. Water play is essential in developing children's literacy and numeracy skills as well as scientific discovery abilities and environmental awareness. Water play also assists them in developing their fine motor skills as they learn to grasp, measure, pour; discover the basic concept of water displacement and water energy; and experiment with diffusion. At the same time, we also acknowledge that a child can drown in as little as 5cm of water.

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure all children attending Council's education and care services remain safe as required by the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011* and the *Children's Services Act 1996* when accessing water.

Policy statement

Moonee Valley City Council is committed to:

- providing a safe, rich learning environment
- protecting the health and safety of each child at all times
- incorporating safe water play activities as part of the service's educational programming
- maximising children's learning outcomes while ensuring safety and hygiene requirements are met. Children gain many skills such as scientific discovery, numeracy and literacy whilst engaging in safe water play

Group	Responsible Manager	Document No	Document No	Approval Date	Review Date
Family and Children's Services	Michele Leonard	2.18 Water Safety Procedure	17/150847	August 2017	August 2019

Procedure	2.18 Water Safety Procedure
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Action	Approved Provider	Responsible Person or Primary Nominee	Educator/contractor	Families	Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011	Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010	Children's Services Regulations 2009 & Children's Services Act 1996
Provide a safe environment for water-based activities in educational programs by maintaining a duty of care at all times.		✓	✓		r.73 r.103 r.105 r.253	s.167 s.175	r.40-41 r.93 r.97 s.26 s.26B s.29A s.29B
Encourage children to safely explore the properties of water, building water safety messages into our programming as appropriate.		✓	✓		r.73		r.40-41 s.26 s.26B s.29A
Provide families with water safety information including the availability of learn to swim programs offered in the local area and water safety in the home.		✓	✓				
Consider any water restrictions that may be issued by relevant authorities when planning water-based activities.		✓	✓		r.73		r.40-41 s.26 s.26B
Set up all water play activities in an area with a non-slip surface.		✓	✓		r.73	s.167	s.26 s.26B s.29

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Action	Approved Provider	Responsible Person or Primary Nominee	Educator/contractor	Families	Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011	Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010	Children's Services Regulations 2009 & Children's Services Act 1996
Encourage children to thoroughly wash and dry their hands following service procedures, and after each water play activity, to reduce the risk of cross-infection.		✓	✓		r.73		r.940-41 s.26 s.29A
Provide adequate spare clothing for the child in the event that the child becomes uncomfortably wet during a session of water play.				✓	r.73	s.167	r.40-41 s.26
Check children's outdoor play areas each morning and during the day if rain occurs to ensure that no containers or pools of water are accessible to children.		✓	✓		r.103	s.167	r.40-41 s.26 s.29 s.29A
Buckets used for general cleaning are to be emptied immediately after use and no buckets are to be left in play areas or accessible to children.		✓	✓		r.103	s.167	r.40-41 s.26
<p>Ensure that all water carrying containers that can reasonably present a drowning hazard for children are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supervised at all times that water is present within them • emptied onto garden beds at the end of each water play activity and removed from access by children • allow vessel to dry thoroughly at the end of each water play activity to prevent the build-up of potentially harmful bacteria and mould • store in a manner to prevent the inadvertent collection of water such as rain 		✓	✓		r.73 r.103 r.355-357 r.360-367	s.167 s.165 s.169	r.40-41 r.50 r.53 s.26 s.26B s.29A
Educators/contractors are to be in attendance at all times when children are participating in paddling. Paddling pools/containers are not to be filled above 15cm and are to be emptied after use and stored in such a way that prevents water collection.		✓	✓		r.355-357 r.360-367	s.167 s.165 s.169	s.26 s.29A

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Any bathroom and or laundry area containing a bath, basin, trough or sink must be secured with doors or latches that cannot be operated by a child.	✓	✓	✓		r.103	s.167	s.26 s.29 s.29A
Ensure hot water accessible to children is maintained at below 40°Celsius in centre-based services, and hot water holding tanks are tested and serviced annually.	✓	✓	✓		r.103	s.167	s.26 s.29 s.29A
All hot water over 50° Celsius in any tap, pipe, vessel, cooking or heating appliance or drinking vessel shall be located out of reach, or made inaccessible by use of barriers or be fitted with a child restraint tap or made inoperable for a child.		✓	✓		r.103	s.167	s.26 s.29 s.29A
Undertake regular inspections of water equipment storage in service centres and spas in family day care premises, to ensure compliance with Australian Standards 2818-1993 and AS 1926.2-2007/Amendment 22011.	✓	✓	✓		r.103	s.167	s.26 s.29
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> all family day care contractors who have a spa must comply with the following points: all outdoor spas must be completely enclosed by a fence or rendered inaccessible by a locked pool cover which complies with the relevant Australian Standard, currently: Fences must not have horizontal footholds and must be a minimum of 1.2 metres. AS 2818-1993 <i>Guide to swimming pool safety</i> AS 1926.2-2007/Amendment 2-2011 <i>Swimming pool safety</i> – Location of safety barriers for swimming pools all outdoor spas must be covered and locked to comply with all relevant Council policies 	✓	✓	✓		r.103 r.105 r.355-357 r.360-367	s.167 s.165 s.169	s.26 s.29 s.29A

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • documentation and/or Council checks may be required to ensure compliance • all equipment/chemicals must be inaccessible to children in care • all windows that allow access to the spa must not open more than 100mm • any object that could assist a child to climb up and over a fence or operate any gate, door or window must be removed • a notice detailing resuscitation procedures must be permanently attached to a fixture within the spa area • water containers allowing immersion of a child's face, including nappy buckets and animal drinking bowls, must be covered or inaccessible to children 							
No family day care contractor is to have a swimming pool at the venue where care is provided.	✓	✓	✓			s.167	s.26

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Resources and useful websites

This Policy and Procedures are aligned to the following National Quality Standard
www.acecqa.gov.au/national-quality-framework/the-national-quality-standard

Australian Standard 'Swimming Pool Safety', AS 1926.2, Amendment 2011 —
www.standards.org.au

For further information on swimming pool and spa requirements visit the Victorian Building Authority's website – www.buildingcommission.com.au

Royal Life Saving Society Australia, *Keep Watch: Prevent Your Children from Drowning* —
www.royallifesaving.com.au (or www.keepwatch.com.au) and
www.swimandsurvive.com.au/

Swimming Pool and Spa Association of Victoria — www.spasavic.com.au

Victorian Water Safety, *Play it Safe by the Water* — www.watersafety.vic.gov.au

Link to Council policies

This Policy and Procedures are linked to Council's local laws regarding safety barriers for swimming pools and spas, and building regulations and how they affect you —
<http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/>

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