

POLICY

POLICY 44: HEALTH AND SAFETY – WATER SAFETY

OVERARCHING PERSPECTIVE:

Perspective: Quality Service
Policy: Services and Programs

OUTCOME:

Our Village Family Childcare Service will ensure the service is compliant with water safety requirements at all times whilst children are in attendance.

SCOPE:

This document applies to the Educators, Families and Children, Coordination Unit Staff, Students and Volunteers of Our Village Family Childcare Service.

RATIONALE:

Water is an essential part of all our lives . to bath, drink, cook and even to play in it. Young children are often drawn to water and whether it is the bathroom, backyard or on a farm, children need to be protected from areas where water would constitute a hazard.

- The *Victorian Building Regulations 2006* states that swimming pool and spa owners are required by law to meet government standards and regulations
- All swimming pools and spas capable of a depth of water exceeding 300mm (30cm) must have suitable child restraint safety barriers
- A building permit is required for all constructions of pools and spas that are capable of a depth of water exceeding 300mm (30cm). The permit must be issued by a municipal or private building surveyor or for any exemptions prior 21 December, 2001, you are now required to comply with the current regulations (*refer to the Victorian Building Commission www.buildingcommission.com.au or phone 9285 6400 for copy of the regulations or contact your local council*)
- A building permit is required for installing and altering all swimming pool and spa safety fences and barriers including windows, doors and gates that provide access to the a pool or spa area

PROCESS:

- Any swimming pool or spa fence, barrier, gate or door must be maintained in good working order
- All gates and doors providing access to a swimming pool or a spa must be built to the Australian Standard and have self-closing and self-latching devices, regardless of when they were built
- Signage must be displayed in the pool and/or spa area giving instructions for child CPR
- Gates or doors to pool or spa areas must never be propped opened to provide access

- Objects that could help a child climb into the pool or spa area are removed from the area
- Remove floating toys from the pool as they can be a temptation to young children
- Swimming activities in the home pool for children registered in the service is not permitted.
- If swimming activities are undertaken by the Educator or family members during the hours that the Educator is working, another adult, who is covered by the registration requirements of the service, must present to provide supervision.
- Holes, wells, trenches and excavations are adequately fenced or covered securely
- Ponds are covered with mesh and securely attached to the sides of the pond
- Buckets, drums and other containers for liquids are adequately covered or locked away
- Wading pools are emptied immediately after use and stored away when not in use
- A risk assessment for excursions where there is a water hazard must be comprehensive to ensure the safety of children . *see Education & Care Services National Regulations 2011, Section 4.2, Reg.101 (b) (c) (for swimming at public pools refer to Excursion Policy 16 – inclusive of the risk assessment framework).*
- Bathrooms and Laundries . never leave a child unattended in the bath or under the supervision of an older child.
- When bathing a child, leave the phone answering machine on, or if you must answer the phone, take the child with you
- Nappy buckets if in use, must have a firm fitting lid and must be kept off the floor
- A fenced and safe play area needs to be provided on farms to separate children from dams, lakes and creeks.
- Educators are not permitted to take pre-school age children to the beach for swimming. If an activity with school age children involves the beach and swimming, the local life-saving club must be contacted to ensure only designated safe areas are used for swimming. The ratio for such an activity is one adult: two children over the age of five years.

Adult supervision is essential when children are in or near water.

REFERENCES:

- *Recommended on-line video reference:*
www.kidshealth.chw.edu.au/prevention/swimmingpoolfencing
- Safety Centre, Royal Children's Hospital 'Water Safety' Melbourne, Vic Phone - 9345 5085
- Building Commission 'Swimming pool and spa safety barriers' Victoria. Phone - 9285 6400
- Education and Care National Regulations, 2011 . Regulation 168




RELATED DOCUMENTS:

Excursions - 16

Health and Safety . Sun Protection - 38

This box to be completed after final draft has been approved.

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Owner:	Manager, Family Day Care	Signed in accordance with Deed of Delegation: 1/12/2016  X Marcus Bosch General Manager, Child, Youth & Family Services Signed by: Marcus Bosch	