

**LA TROBE UNIVERSITY**  
**COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CENTRE**  
**DANGEROUS PRODUCTS STATEMENT**

**Background**

La Trobe University Community Children's Centre has a duty of care to provide all persons<sup>1</sup> with a safe and healthy environment.

The Centre must comply with State Government Legislation – Children's Services Act (AS 26 Protecting Children from Hazard and Harm - 1998) and Children's Services Regulations (2009) National Childcare Accreditation Council – Principle 5 – Protective Care and Safety, University Policies and Work Safe Victoria Code of Practice both of which are legislated by the OH&S Act 2004 and Staying Healthy in Child Care (4<sup>th</sup> Edition).

This Centre's health and safety statements and practices affect an individual's physical and psychological health and safety. This statement is to be read and implemented in conjunction with the Centre's other health and safety statements and practices.

This Dangerous Products Statement is important not only for children, families and staff, but relates to every person who enters the service's premises or uses the service's equipment.

The Centres use of dangerous products is kept to a minimum due to the sensitive nature of our environment.

**Dangerous Products**

The Centre defines a dangerous product as any chemical, substance or material that can cause potential harm, injury or illness to persons or damage to the service's environment.

The Centre categorises dangerous products into the following sub groups:

- hazardous chemicals and substances;
- dangerous goods;
- poisons (plants & vermin);
- drugs (including medications).

**Centre Practice**

The Children's play environments at this Centre are cleaned according to Staying Healthy in Child Care, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (p25) with warm soapy water on a day to day basis. The Soap used is non toxic. Refer to Infection Control Statement (2009).

A sanitiser is sprayed on the nappy change bench/mats and toilets after each use. The clearly labelled sanitiser spray bottles are kept on a high shelf, out of reach of children and in areas that are not normally children's play areas. Simple warning signs are posted where these bottles are stored to alert adults but not to attract the curiosity of children.

**Hazardous Chemicals**

All other chemicals are stored and used in specific areas that are not part of the children's play environment. These specific areas are the Cleaners Store, Laundry and Main Kitchen. All of which are inaccessible to children.

Relevant Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are displayed in these areas.

These storage areas are systematically audited when supplies are ordered.

**Potentially Dangerous Goods**

The use of microwave ovens is for adult use (staff room) and purpose only. The microwave oven is not for general use (e.g. heating children's bottles and food). The microwave oven is stored and used in a specific area that is not part of the children's play environment. This area is not accessible to children.

The use of printers and photocopiers is for adult use only. The printers and photocopiers are stored and used in specific areas that are not part of the children's play environment. These specific areas are inaccessible to children. The Centre makes use of the University's safe disposal service for toner cartridges.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this policy, 'persons' include <children, families, staff, carers, carers' family, management, coordination unit staff, ancillary staff (administrative staff, kitchen staff, cleaners, maintenance personnel), students, volunteers, visitors, local community, school community, licensee, sponsor and/or service owner>.

Refer to the Centre established 'Statement' – Safety Checks and Maintenance of Building and Equipment. This Statement is implemented throughout the Centre and identifies broken or damaged toys/equipment and actions.

Soiled nappies are stored in containers with secure lids to prevent children's access to the contents. Soiled clothing is secured in accordance with the Centre's Infection Control Statement 2009.

### **Poisons**

In this Statement, poisons will be referring to plants (such as domestic plants and fungi) and animals (such as venom from spiders/snakes/insects).

Refer to the Centre established Statement – Safety Checks and Maintenance of Building and Equipment. If items are identified through this process contact is made with professionals to undertake appropriate action.

### **Drugs and Medications**

In this Statement, drugs and medication is referring to prescribed and non-prescribed medication, alcohol, illegal drugs and cigarette smoke.

Refer to the Centre's Medication Statement which refers to appropriate administration and storage of prescribed and non-prescribed medications within the Centre.

The Centre operates under the governance of the Children's Services Act (1996). The Act prohibits the storage of alcohol and illegal drugs in an Early Childhood setting. It also prohibits consumption of these products by any person supervising the young child.

The Centre is a smoke free environment and operates under the governance of the Children's Services Act (1996), Children's Services Regulations (2009) and University's Smoking Policy. Refer to the Centre's Clothing Statement.

### **Education**

It is essential for us all to be informed and educated on the potential dangers to both children and adults within the environment, whether it is at the Centre or in the home.

The Centre has many affiliations with recognised health and safety authorities and will provide staff and families with information via displays and on request (in the main home language/s of families using the Centre).

### **Links to other documents:**

Mission  
Safety Checks and Maintenance of Building and Equipment  
Children's Play Environment Checklist;  
Monthly Report;  
Medication Statement;  
Anaphylaxis Management Statement;  
Infection Control Statement;  
Infection Control Monitor;  
Clothing Statement  
Nutrition Statement  
Qualifications and Training Statement  
First Aid Registry  
Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)

### **Reference:**

La Trobe University – Guidelines for the storage of chemicals  
La Trobe University Occupational Health and Safety Manual – Smoking Policy (last Modified: 4 September 2000)  
Mission  
La Trobe University Buildings and Grounds Division  
Children's Services Act (1996)  
Children's Services Regulations (2009)  
National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC): Quality Improvement and Accreditation System (QIAS) Quality Practices Guide (2005) – Principle 5.3  
Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 Sections 21 and 23: main Duties of Employers Section 25: Duties of Employees [www.worksafe.vic.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au) >Laws and Regulations > Acts and Regulations  
Australian Standards AS2243 Part 10: Storage of chemicals

Approved: 5 November 2009 Minute 389.10.o

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