

Equipment & Toy Disinfecting Procedure Policy

Early Adventures Child Care Centre is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for children, families and employees. Early Adventures will take every reasonable precaution to prevent the risk of communicable diseases within all our locations.

Purpose

The disinfection of toys is vital to ensuring the health and safety of children as it reduces and mitigates the potential spread of germs and viruses among children and those who may come into contact with them.

Policy

To ensure that all employees are aware of, and adhere to, the directive established by Toronto Public Health regarding cleaning and disinfecting of toys in all Early Adventures Child Care Centre Programs.

All employees, students and any other persons that enter the premise and engage in the programs must adhere to the following procedures.

Procedures

All toys that are plush will be removed and not used in play, these include, stuffed animals, hand puppets, cloth toys etc. In addition, all communal sensory play is suspended. All porous toys or materials that cannot be effectively cleaned and disinfected must be removed and not used in play.

Cleaning and Disinfection of Toys

It is recommended that the dishwasher be used for toy washing whenever possible. The cycle must meet a minimum of 82 degrees Celsius. The dishwasher in room 101 is designated for **toy washing only**. Toys will be air dried in a designated area that is separate from bathrooms or change tables and protected from sources of contamination.

A Bin Method for Disinfecting Toys can also be used using bleach and water (10 min contact time).

To ensure consistent and proper dilution disinfectant, one staff will be assigned to prepare the bottles each morning. The staff will ensure that they are wearing appropriate PPE when mixing the solution.

5 Step Method for Disinfecting Toys using Bleach & water solution (2 minute contact time):

Step method for washing. Please following the steps below:

1. Sink/Bin - wash with soap and warm water to clean visible dirt
2. Sink/Bin-rinse soap off with clean water
3. Sink/Bin- spray with bleach solution and let sit for 2 minutes.
4. Sink/Bin- rinse using clean water
5. Air dry toys by placing them on a drying tray

Cleaning and Disinfecting Large Toys/Equipment In-Place using Bleach (2 minute contact time):

Large toys, cots, etc. that cannot be immersed in a disinfectant solution should use this method for washing. Please follow the steps below:

1. Clean with soap and water using a cloth
2. Wipe with a clean wet cloth to rinse
3. Disinfect by spraying bleach and let sit for 2 minutes. (do not spray product to toys and surfaces when children or other staff are nearby)
4. Allow toys to air dry

Prepare chlorine bleach solutions:

- o 1 teaspoon (5 mL) bleach per cup (250 mL) of water, or
- o 4 teaspoons (20 mL) bleach per litre (1000 mL) of water
- o Ensure a minimum of two minutes contact time and allow to air dry.
- o Prepare fresh bleach solutions daily.
- o Fill the sprayer only to a level that is comfortable for transporting to the area you use for toy washing – a trolley can also be used to assist with transporting.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Large Toys/Equipment In-Place

Large toys, wooden toys, cots, cribs, etc. that cannot be immersed in a disinfectant solution will use this method for washing. Equipment will be cleaned with soap and water using a cloth. Use a clean wet cloth to rinse. The area will be disinfected by using bleach and water and let it sit for required contact time. Do not spray product to toys and surfaces when children or other staff are nearby. A final rinse is required using a single-use wet paper towel. Allow to air dry.

Considerations:

- Outdoor play structures do not need to be cleaned or disinfected between uses unless the equipment is visibly soiled or dirty. Hand hygiene is practised before and after using playground equipment or outdoor play structures.
- Toy cleaning schedules will be posted in each area and updated daily by the employee responsible
- Toys, including large toys, cots, equipment and high touch items will be cleaned and disinfected at least two times per day and as often as necessary i.e., when toys/items are visibly soiled or when toys/items have been contaminated with body fluids.
- Toys that have become visibly dirty or that have come into contact with body fluids (e.g. toys that have been mouthed) will be taken out of circulation immediately, cleaned, and disinfected immediately. Toys that cannot be cleaned and disinfected immediately will be placed in a designated dirty toy bin. The bin should be clearly labelled and inaccessible to children.
- Caretaking will not be entering the programs spaces to remove garbage during the day. If the bins are full, employees will need to remove the garbage and dispose of it the bin outside the classroom door.

Policy and Procedure Review

This policy and procedure will be reviewed and signed off by all employees before commencing employment and at any time where a change is required.

Revised: August 23, 2021.