

Toy Disinfection Procedures

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.

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

Toy Washing Procedures - Cleaning and Disinfection using the Hobart Dishwasher

It is recommended that the Hobart dishwasher be used for toy washing whenever possible:

- The rinse cycle must meet a minimum of **82 degrees Celsius**
- Only use the dishwasher in the kitchen when it is not being used for any other purposes (i.e. washing dishes, food preparation, serving)
- Toys are placed evenly on the dishwashing racks and are an appropriate size to ensure they will not fall into the basin
- Toys are removed carefully once the wash cycle is complete as they may be hot or contain hot water
- Toys are air dried in a designated area that is separate from bathrooms and protected from sources of contamination
- The kitchen is clean and tidy when you have completed toy washing

Toy Washing Procedures - Manual Cleaning and Disinfection (if not using the Hobart Dishwasher)

5 Step Method for Disinfecting Toys using ACCEL (1 min contact time) or Bleach & water solution (2 minute contact time):

Jackman Community Daycare (JCD) uses a pre-mixed sanitizer called Accel. This is an accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide disinfectant and/or a bleach and water solution.

Small toys that can be immersed in water should use the 2 sink method for washing. Please follow 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 – dip toys into bleach & water mixture in 2nd sink
4. Sink/Bin - rinse using clean water
5. Air dry toys by placing them on a clean drying tray or towel, protected from contamination

Prepare chlorine bleach solution:

- 4 teaspoons (20 mL) bleach per litre (1000 mL) of water
- Ensure a minimum of two minutes contact time and allow to air dry.

Toy Washing Procedures - Cleaning and Disinfecting Large Toys/Equipment In-Place using Accel Spray (1 min contact time) or 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 Accel and let sit for a **1-minute** (required 1 minute contact time) or 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

If using bleach, prepare chlorine bleach solution:

- 1 teaspoon (5 mL) bleach per cup (250 mL) of water, or
- 4 teaspoons (20 mL) bleach per litre (1000 mL) of water
- Ensure a minimum of two minutes contact time and allow to air dry.
- Prepare fresh bleach solutions daily.
- 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 team will prepare fresh bottle of bleach solution for all rooms daily. Staff must pick up full bottle of bleach in the kitchen in the morning and drop off empty bottles at 6 PM.

Frequencies and Toy Cleaning Schedules

- Toy cleaning schedules will be posted in each area and updated daily by the staff.
- Indoor & outdoor play equipment must be cleaned and disinfected daily, between use by cohorts and as often as necessary i.e., when toys/ items are visibly soiled or when toys/items have been contaminated or if the toy has been used by a symptomatic individual. Alternatively, batch play equipment and rotate weekly.
- Refer to the Environmental Cleaning and Disinfecting Policy and Procedures for more information
- and as often as necessary (e.g. when visibly dirty, contaminated)

Handling used toys

- Toys that have become visibly dirty or that have come into contact with body fluids (e.g., toys that have been mouthed), or in contact with an infected person, should be taken out of circulation immediately and cleaned and disinfected immediately. Toys that cannot be cleaned and disinfected immediately should be placed in a designated dirty toy bin. The bin should be clearly labelled and children should not be allowed to touch dirty toys or bins. If they do they must wash their hands immediately.

Policy and Procedure Review

This policy and procedure will be reviewed and signed off by all employees and students prior to returning to work at JCD and any time where a change is made. The review will be documented on the Infection Prevention and Control Policies and Procedures Review & Sign Off Form; a hard copy will be retained for a minimum of 3 years.

Reference(s): Toronto Public Health Guidance Document 2020

Approved by: Health & Safety Team and JCD Management

Date Approved: July 6, 2020

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Date Revised: November 30, 2020