

# Making Your Childcare Centre a *Healthy Environment*

A Fact Sheet for Childcare Operators and Staff



## Play Pools

- The York Region Health Protection Division does not recommend the use of play-pools for children, especially for those children that are not yet fully toilet trained.
- Play-pools can act as a source for infectious disease transmission.
- Sprinklers, hoses or individual water buckets are safer alternatives.
- If play-pools are being used, they must be the small dump and fill pools, which may be easily emptied by one or two persons (e.g. small, hard plastic circular shape pools).
- Although strongly discouraged, if a child in diapers is permitted to use the play-pool, they must wear a water-proof pant that prevents leaks. Diapers are not permitted as they are not leak proof. As well, diapers swell and become very heavy, thereby creating a safety risk for the child.
- Play-pools are to be filled with clean water and emptied after every use.
- Once emptied, the pool must be cleaned and disinfected using a low-level disinfectant. A minimum of a 10 minute contact time is required to properly disinfect.
- Should a fouling occur, children must be immediately removed from the pool. Remove any solid matter and dispose of it in a sanitary manner. Empty water, clean pool with a detergent and then disinfect the pool with a high-level disinfectant. A minimum of a 10 minute contact time is required to properly disinfect.
- Remember to play it safe in the sun, *slip* on a shirt, *slap* on a hat and *slop* on some sunscreen.



This fact sheet has been produced by York Region Health Services,  
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Questions? Call *Health Connection* 1-800-361-5653

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