

Making Your Childcare Centre a *Healthy Environment*



A Fact Sheet for Childcare Operators and Staff

York Region Community and Health Services is mandated to inspect all childcare centres to ensure compliance with food safety regulations, infection control and safe water standards.

This fact sheet is provided for information and guidance to childcare centre operators.

Toy Cleaning and Disinfection

Toys are important to a child's growth and development. However, they can also provide a route for spreading common childhood infections, such as gastroenteritis, pink eye, hand foot and mouth disease, ring worm, chicken pox and even the common cold. One of the most important steps for reducing illness and the spread of disease is regular cleaning and disinfection of surfaces. Toys that are frequently handled or mouthed are those most likely to be contaminated. Regular cleaning and disinfection is mandatory on a weekly basis. During an outbreak toys must be cleaned and disinfected daily.

Step 1	Only toys that can be cleaned and disinfected are permitted for use.
Step 2	Inspect all toys to ensure there are no loose small parts or broken jagged edges that can pose a safety hazard.
Step 3	Minimize the sharing and mouthing of toys between children. Once a child has mouthed a toy, it must be cleaned and disinfected.
Step 4	Toys must be cleaned by scrubbing with soap and water. A brush must be used when cleaning toys that have small crevices.
Step 5	Rinse toys in clean water.
Step 6	Soak toys in a disinfectant solution, for a minimum of ten minutes or follow manufacturer's recommendations.
Step 7	Air dry toys or dry with clean paper towel and store in a clean area.
Step 8	Large toys must be cleaned by spraying with a soap and water solution, rinsing and then spraying with a disinfectant solution. Allow a ten minute contact time or follow manufactures recommendations. Wipe with clean paper towel or air dry.
Step 9	Only washable stuffed or cloth toys are permitted for use. These toys are to be laundered weekly or when visibly soiled.



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

