

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.

Craft materials

To ensure optimum safety for the children at your child care centre, special consideration must be given to the materials that are being used for crafts.

The following are recommendations for using craft materials:

- Ensure that toxic products are not used for crafts (i.e., labels indicating “keep out of reach of children”). Examples of these include: laundry detergent, starch based laundry products, shaving cream and plaster of paris.
- Non-toxic products should be treated with the same caution as any chemical product. It is highly recommended to use materials that have the Certified Products Seal and/or the Approved Products Seal of the Art and Craft Materials Institute.
- Avoid items that can create dust like powdered clay, chalk or dry-erase markers. Use talc-free, premixed clay, dustless chalk and crayons.
- Avoid permanent felt-tip markers which may contain toxic solvents.
- Toilet paper rolls, egg cartons and trays (e.g. styrofoam meat trays) previously used to store hazardous food items should not to be used for crafts as they cannot be properly cleaned and disinfected.
- Use styrofoam material with caution, it may present a choking hazard for small children.
- Use balloons with discretion. They are one of the leading non-food causes of choking death in children.
- Discard grains, cereal products and play dough after one week of use. If they become wet, discard immediately.

Reminder: Always ensure that children properly wash their hands once the craft has been completed.



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

