

Making Your Child Care Centre a Healthy Environment



A Fact Sheet for Child Care Operators and Staff

York Region Community and Health Services is mandated to inspect all child care centres to ensure compliance with food safety regulations, infection control and safe water standards. This fact sheet is provided for information and guidance to child care centre operators.

Outdoor Sandbox Safety

Do you keep your sandbox covered at all times when not in use?

Keeping your sandbox covered when not in use will help prevent entry of other children or animals. Covering your sandbox will also help to prevent contamination of the sand.

What kind of sand do you have in your sandbox?

Using clean, silica-free “Playsand” in the sandbox provides a safe starting point where there are no harmful organisms that may affect your children while they are playing. Spraying the sand with a bleach and water solution does not effectively disinfect it.

Do you check your sandbox daily?

Do a visual check of the sandbox daily before use. This ensures that there is no contamination of the sand by animals or other people. Rake the sand weekly to ensure there are no buried articles that may pose a hazard (i.e., feces, sharp objects, choking hazards).

Did you know?

The consumption of soil and sand by children can lead to a serious health concern known as *Toxoplasmosis*. Symptoms of this disease can range from brain injury to pneumonia and death. Discourage children from consuming or placing any articles contaminated with sand in their mouth. Ensure that pregnant staff are not changing the sand or removing feces from the sandbox.

Do not allow the consumption of snack or food while children are playing in the sandbox.

This can lead to children ingesting the sand and other contaminants. Ensure that the children wash their hands thoroughly after playing with sand.

Following these tips will keep playtime in your sandbox not only fun for your children, but also safe.



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For more information, please call
York Region Health Connection 1-800-361-5653 TTY: 1-866-252-9933
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