

# CHILD CARE SETTING

## Cleaning and Disinfecting Schedule

Cleaning and disinfecting are the building blocks of an infection prevention and control program in a child care setting. Some pathogens can live for hours, days or even weeks on toys, equipment and other surfaces. To reduce the spread of pathogens in the child care setting, adhere to a cleaning and disinfecting process.

Play Area/Surfaces	What To Do	After Each Use	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Mouthed toys, activity tabletops, highchairs	Clean and disinfect	✓			
All toys, equipment, and surfaces (infant room)	Clean and disinfect		✓		
All toys, equipment, and surfaces (toddler, preschool and school age)	Clean and disinfect			✓	
Absorbent material (dress up clothes and plush toys)	Launder			✓	
Water toys and table	Clean and disinfect		✓		
Nature items, dried food products, cardboard items (e.g., leaves, sticks, unsealed wood, rocks, pasta, rice, beans, grains)	Discard				Replace when wet or damaged
Indoor sand	Discard				Monthly
Play dough	Discard			✓	
Sensory play tables	Clean and disinfect			✓	
Sleep Area	What To Do	After Each Use	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Crib rails, mattresses, cots, vinyl mats	Clean and disinfect			✓	
Bedding, linens	Launder			✓	
Clean and disinfect or launder after each use when used by different attendees					
Washrooms/Diaper Changing Area	What To Do	After Each Use	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Potty chairs	Clean and disinfect	✓			
Toilet seat, toilet seat inserts	Clean and disinfect	✓			
Handwashing sinks, counters	Clean and disinfect		✓		
Diaper change mat – with paper liner Discard paper after each change	Clean and disinfect		✓		
Diaper change mat – without paper liner	Clean and disinfect	✓			
Diaper change table			✓		
Common Areas throughout the Setting	What To Do	After Each Use	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Floors, vinyl mats	Sweep/vacuum and mop with cleaning agent		✓		
Carpets	Vacuum		✓		Steam clean every 3-6
Garbage containers	Clean and disinfect			✓	
Air vents	Vacuum and clean				✓
Cloth towels	Launder	✓			
Toy Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedure					
<b>Step 1</b>	<b>INSPECT</b> Inspect to ensure there are no loose parts or broken/jagged edges that could pose a safety hazard Ensure toys can withstand cleaning and disinfection				
<b>Step 2</b>	<b>CLEAN = WASH + RINSE + DRY</b> Wash: Soap and water using a scrubbing action Rinse: Potable water Dry: Air dry or with disposable paper towels				
<b>Step 3</b>	<b>DISINFECT</b> Apply a disinfectant in one of the following ways: • Fully immerse toys in the disinfectant for the required contact time • For large toys squirt/stream flow disinfectant or apply a saturated cloth with disinfectant directly to the surface of the toy for the required contact time				
<b>Step 4</b> (If applicable)	<b>RINSE</b> Toys must be rinsed thoroughly with clean potable water following disinfection Items that may be mouthed by children must be rinsed with potable water following disinfection				

During an outbreak, toys must be cleaned and disinfected with 'outbreak situation' disinfectant level daily or when visibly soiled. Nature-based play materials, sensory items and other toys that cannot be cleaned, disinfected, or laundered must be removed from use for the duration of the outbreak and can be returned once the outbreak has been declared over or as per public health recommendations. Communal sensory play must be stopped until the outbreak is declared over.

Please note that additional public health measures may be advised during an outbreak by York Region Public Health and the Ministry of Education.

For more information refer to **A Public Health Guide for Child Care Providers** at [york.ca/ChildCareGuide](http://york.ca/ChildCareGuide)