

Equipment & Toy Disinfecting Procedure Policy

Promised Future is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for children, families and employees. Promised Future will take every reasonable precaution to prevent the risk of communicable diseases within all our locations.

Purpose

The disinfection of toys is vital to ensuring the health and safety of children as it reduces and mitigates the potential spread of germs and viruses among children and those who may come into contact with them.

Policy

To ensure that all employees are aware of, and adhere to, the directive established by York Region Public Health regarding cleaning and disinfecting of toys in our Program.

All employees, students and any other persons that enter the premise and engage in the program must adhere to the following procedures.

Procedures

All toys that are plush have been removed and not used in play, these include, stuffed animals, hand puppets, cloth toys etc. In addition, all communal sensory play is suspended. All porous toys or materials that cannot be effectively cleaned and disinfected must be removed and not used in play.

Cleaning and Disinfection of Toys

Toys will be air dried in a designated area that is separate from bathrooms or change tables and protected from sources of contamination.

A Bin Method for Disinfecting Toys will be used using bleach and water (10 min contact time).

To ensure consistent and proper dilution disinfectant, one staff will be assigned to prepare the bottles each morning. The staff will ensure that they are wearing appropriate PPE when mixing the solution Staff will use test strips to test the concentration.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Large Toys/Equipment In-Place

Large toys, wooden toys, indoor climbers etc. that cannot be immersed in a disinfectant solution will use this method for washing. Equipment will be cleaned with soap and water using a cloth. Use a clean wet cloth to rinse. The area will be disinfected by spraying Lysol Ready-To-Use (RTU) or wipe with disinfectant wipes and let it sit for required contact time. Toys will not be sprayed when children or other staff are nearby. A final rinse is required using a single-use wet paper towel. Allow to air dry.

Considerations:

- Community playgrounds will not be used.
- No outdoor sandboxes or water tables will be used.
- If the classroom does not have a sink, the employee will fill a bucket only to a level that is comfortable for transporting to the area for disinfecting toys – a trolley can also be used to assist with transporting.
- Unused test strips must be kept dry and in a dark space.
- When a new bottle of test strips is opened, the date opened should be written on the Bottle.
- Test strips expire six (6) months after the container is opened. Any unused test strips must be discarded after 6 months as it is no longer effective.
- Refer to the manufacturers label for disinfectant used to ensure proper usage.
- All products used must have a DIN (Drug Identification number) and a Safety Data Sheet (SDS).
- Toy cleaning schedules will be posted in each area and updated daily by the employee responsible
- Toys, including large toys, equipment and high touch items will be cleaned and disinfected at least two times per day and as often as necessary i.e., when toys/items are visibly soiled or when toys/items have been contaminated with body fluids.
- Toys and items such as electronic devices should be cleaned and disinfected between users prior to redistributing.
- Toys that have become visibly dirty or that have come into contact with body fluids (e.g. toys that have been mouthed) should be taken out of circulation immediately, cleaned, and disinfected immediately. Toys that cannot be cleaned and disinfected immediately should be placed in a designated dirty toy bin. The bin should be clearly labelled and inaccessible to children.
- If the bins are full, employees will need to remove the garbage and dispose of it, in the bin outside Unit 5.

Policy and Procedure Review

This policy and procedure will be reviewed and signed off by all employees before commencing employment and at any time where a change is required.