

# Toy Washing and Disinfecting Policy and Procedures- HCC – COVID-19

## Policy Statement

Toronto Early Learning & Child Care Services (TELCCS) is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for children, families, providers and visitors. TELCCS will take every reasonable precaution to prevent the risk of communicable diseases within all our home child care locations.

## Purpose

To ensure that all providers and visitors are aware of, and adhere to, the directive established by Toronto Public Health (TPH), and Children's Services in all TELCCS home child care (HCC) locations.

## Application

This policy applies to all providers, visitors and any other persons engaged in business with TELCCS HCC.

## Procedure

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.

When disinfecting only approved products can be used.

## Disinfecting

### Preparing Household Bleach as a Disinfectant

#### Remember the following:

- The solution must be made fresh daily to preserve strength
- The bottle must be labelled with the contents - parts of water and bleach used
- Clean before applying the disinfectant
- Follow the contact time
- Household bleach is 5.25% sodium hypochlorite solution (50,000ppm available chlorine)

### High-level disinfection Solutions

- 1:50 chlorine bleach solution
- 1 part bleach and 49 parts water
- 1,000 ppm (parts per million)

### **How to mix the bleach solution**

- 10 ml bleach with 495 ml water

**Or**

- 2 tsp. bleach with 2 cups water

All toys that are plush must be removed and not used in play, these include, stuffed animals, hand puppets, cloth toys etc. All porous toys or materials that cannot be effectively cleaned and disinfected must be removed and not used in play.

### **Toy Washing Procedures - Cleaning and Disinfection Using a Mechanical Dishwasher**

It is recommended that the dishwasher be used for toy washing whenever possible:

- The rinse cycle must meet a minimum of **82 degrees Celsius**
- Only use the dishwasher in the kitchen when it is not being used for any other purposes (i.e. washing dishes, food preparation, serving)
- Toys are placed evenly on the dishwashing racks and are an appropriate size to ensure they will not fall into the basin
- Toys are removed carefully once the wash cycle is complete as they may be hot or contain hot water
- Toys are air dried in a designated area that is separate from bathrooms or change tables and protected from sources of contamination
- The kitchen is clean and tidy when you have completed toy washing

### **Toy Washing Procedures - Manual Cleaning and Disinfection**

#### **4 Bin – 5 Step Method for Disinfecting Toys Using Disinfectant Concentrate**

Small toys that can be immersed in water should use the 4 Bin- 5 Step method for washing. Please following the steps below:

1. Sink/Bin - wash with soap and warm water to clean visible dirt
2. Sink/Bin - rinse soap off with clean water
3. Sink/Bin - soak in disinfectant mixture for the appropriate contact time to disinfect
4. Sink/Bin - rinse using clean water
5. Air dry toys by placing them on a Drying Tray

#### **Toy Washing Procedures - Cleaning & Disinfecting Large Toys/Equipment In-Place Using Approved Disinfectant**

Large toys, wooden toys, cots, cribs, etc. that cannot be immersed in a disinfectant solution should use this method for washing. Please follow the steps below:

1. Clean with soap and water using a cloth
2. Wipe with a clean wet cloth to rinse

3. Disinfect with disinfectant and have it remain wet on the surface for the appropriate contact time. Do not spray product on toys and surfaces when children or other staff are nearby
4. A final rinse is required using a single-use wet paper towel
5. Allow toys to air dry

### **Tips & Reminders**

- Fill the bucket only to a level that is comfortable for transporting to the area you use for toy washing – a trolley can also be used to assist with transporting.
- Refer to the manufacturers label for all approved disinfectants for further information or review.

### **Frequencies and Toy Cleaning**

- Toy cleaning schedules will be posted and updated daily by the provider
- Toys and items such as electronic devices should be cleaned and disinfected between users prior to redistributing.
  - 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
- Refer to Cleaning and Disinfecting Schedule HCC –COVID-19 and Environmental Cleaning and Disinfecting HCC Policy and Procedures – COVID-19 for more guidance.

### **Handling Used Toys**

- 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 and cleaned and disinfected immediately. Ensure that hand hygiene is completed. 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.

### **Policy and Procedure Review**

This policy and procedure will be reviewed and signed off by all providers and visitors before receiving children in a TELCCS home child care and at any time where a change is made.

Revised July 7, 2020