

Toy Cleaning Procedures

Category: Early Years

Risk Management and Legal Implications

Failure to manage risk may impact on the delivery of Service objectives and the outcomes achieved by Service users. Education and Children’s Services aim to mitigate the implications by ongoing management and review of risk in all elements of work activity.

The production of this document is one way in which we aim to reduce our exposure to risk. By providing staff with information on good practice, making reference to other guidance that is available across the Council and providing clarity on how we should do things, we can ensure that the management of risk is intrinsic to what we do.

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Infection Controls - Toy Cleaning Procedures

Toys and play equipment should be a source of fun and learning for every child in the nursery, However, where toys are frequently shared between children, they may become a source of infection.

Toys can become contaminated with germs from unwashed hands, spills of body fluids, or by children putting their mouths to them.

Germs can be picked up from contaminated toys.

Toys should be washable therefore a schedule for regular cleaning should be followed depending on the kind of toy and the likelihood of soiling. A record of cleaning should be completed.

Cleaning of Toys

Do

- Ensure that you have toys that can be cleaned.
- Destroy contaminated toys that cannot be effectively cleaned. (Soft toys are not recommended for multi-use play.)
- Check toys regularly for rough edges and breaks and discard damaged toys.
- Clean and disinfect toys during an outbreak of illness.
- Immediately clean and disinfect toys that are contaminated with body fluids.
- Wash your hands after handling contaminated toys.
- Remove dust regularly. Dust can trigger asthma attacks and harbour germs.
- Clean toys as frequently as practical and when visibly soiled.
- Clean hard/plastic toys by washing them with water and bactericidal detergent, followed by thorough rinsing and air drying.
- Disinfect hard/plastic toys using a chemical disinfectant or disinfectant wipes should a deep clean be required e.g. in response to an infectious outbreak.
- Discourage children from putting shared toys in their mouths.
- Store toys in clean containers or cupboards.
- Remove sand, water clay and dough, for a period of time, when there is an outbreak of sickness and diarrhoea or other infectious diseases such as hand, foot and mouth.

Don't

- Allow children to take toys into the toilet area.
- Put toys back into storage if they are dirty.
- Allow indoor toys to remain outdoors overnight.

Procedures and Frequency for cleaning of Toys

Sand

- Sand should be regularly checked and sieved for foreign bodies.
- Sand swept up from floor must be disposed of.



- Sand toys and storage trolley are washed thoroughly, rinsed and air dried on a weekly basis.
- Indoor sand will be completely replaced every 4 weeks or after the event of an infectious disease such as sickness and diarrhoea or other infectious diseases such as hand, foot and mouth, or when it is dirty if this precludes any of the previous criteria.
- Outdoor sand should be covered each night where appropriate, checked regularly for 'foreign bodies' and changed as soon as it becomes discoloured and/or malodorous.

Water

- Drain, clean with bactericidal detergent and dry water tray between each session.
- Drain, clean with bactericidal detergent and air-dry water toy storage trolley daily.
- Wash and air-dry water toys daily.
- Thoroughly wash, rinse and air-dry water toys on a weekly basis before returning to store cupboard.

Dough

- Dough should be freshly made for every session, ideally by the children, and disposed of at the end of each session.
- Dough tools are thoroughly washed with bactericidal detergent at the end of each session.
- Dough table is cleaned between each session using a bactericidal spray.

Home Corner

- Dressing-up and soft furnishings are machine washed weekly or more frequently if required.
- Crockery, cutlery and utensils are washed in the dishwasher on a regular basis.

Small hard plastic toys/equipment

- Washed with detergent, rinsed and air dried on a weekly basis and when being returned to store cupboard

Cleaning Reminders

- Sinks should be labelled for their designated use, i.e. snack or art.
- Any sink requiring use for multiple purposes should be cleaned using the two-step process before changing purpose.
- Fabric cloths for art and craft areas will be machine washed regularly.
- Disposable cloths should be used for snack area.
- Mop heads will be thoroughly rinsed after use and will be machine washed on a weekly basis or more frequently if required.

Health & Social Care Standards My Support, My life:

4.11, 5.16, 5.17, 5.21, 5.22.