

Clean Toys Help Prevent Disease

Guidelines for Early Learning Programs



Cleaning Toys is Important!

GermS can be easily spread among children as they share toys. Choose washable toys. Cleaning and sanitizing toys helps to prevent the spread of communicable disease in an early learning program. We recommend cleaning, rinsing and sanitizing “mouthed” toys after use by each child and all other toys daily or as needed.

Cleaning & Sanitizing

Clean	Rinse	Sanitize
Clean with soap and water Wipe with a paper towel	Rinse with clear water Wipe with a paper towel	Sanitize with bleach solution* Allow to air dry or to remain on surface for at least 2 minutes, then wipe with a paper towel

- **General Areas/Body Fluids and Diapering/Bathrooms:** 1 tablespoon bleach per quart water
- **Kitchen/Dishwashing:** ¼ teaspoon bleach per quart water



Recommended procedures

As toys become dirty during the day, collect them in a storage container. At the end of the day, or at a specified time, such as naptime, wash, rinse and sanitize the toys. Depending on the type of toy, you can use a washing machine, dishwasher, or wash them by hand.

Washing toys by hand:

1. Step One: Clean

- Washing toys thoroughly with soap or detergent and warm water removes most dirt, grime, and saliva. It is the most important step in cleaning toys.
- It is important to wash toys before sanitizing them as the sanitizer kills germs more effectively on surfaces that are clean.

2. Step Two: Rinse

- Rinsing off the dirt, germs and soap makes a clean surface for the sanitizer to effectively kill the remaining germs

3. Step Three: Sanitize

- To sanitize means to remove or kill most of the germs on an object or toy. We recommend the use of household chlorine bleach for sanitizing toys.
- When used and stored properly, chlorine bleach solution is safe and effective. Store chlorine bleach in its original container out of the reach of children.
- Mix a fresh solution each day. This insures that it maintains the desired proportion: 1 tablespoon of chlorine bleach to 1 quart cool water. Air dry or allow a 2 minute contact time before drying.

NOTE: Do not mix chlorine bleach with other cleansers or chemicals. Mixing chlorine with ammonia will cause dangerous fumes. Only mix chlorine bleach with cool, fresh water.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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