



6.1 Toy Cleaning and Disinfecting Policy and Procedure

PURPOSE(S):

To ensure that all employees are aware regarding the types of toys being used with different age group of children; and aware of cleaning or disinfecting of toys in the setting. The policy is applicable to all employees and any other persons engaged in business with Little Haven Nursery.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Little Haven Nursery is committed to provide a safe and healthy environment for families, employees and especially with children. Our nursery will take every reasonable precaution to prevent the risk of infectious disease and injury within the setting.

Procedures:

Toys and play based learning are an integral part of childcare as they can enhance children's sense of touch, sight, taste, smell and hearing. Toys, however, can also be an excellent vehicle for the spread of infectious diseases. All employees must ensure the following procedures are followed to reduce the risk of disease transmission among children when playing with toys:

Hand Hygiene

- Before and after sensory play, children should be encouraged or assisted to perform hand hygiene.
- Playrooms must have access to both hand sanitizer and a hand wash station.
- Play areas must have hand sanitizer available.

Toy Materials/Design

- Toys must be nonporous and able to withstand rigorous cleaning and repeated exposure to disinfectants.
- Water play toys must be able to be taken apart for cleaning, disinfecting and drying.





- Wooden toys must be wiped out with disinfectant wipes everyday after use.
- Dress up clothes and any cloth toys must be washed everyday after use to avoid transmission of disease or bacteria to other children.
- All stuff toys must be washed weekly with warm water and soap.

Toy Storage

- Toys that are mouthed or contaminated by body secretions shall be removed from the area and are soak in warm water and disinfected using tea tree oil and then rinse then let it dry under the sun.
- Toy storage boxes/cupboards should be emptied, cleaned and disinfected as necessary. Toy bins should be monitored for pest activity.

Indoor playhouses/climbers

- Must have their high touch surfaces cleaned using warm water and disinfected on a daily basis.

Play Dough

- Homemade play dough allows the growth of pathogens; therefore, homemade play dough that is used must be discarded daily.
- Homemade play dough must be covered if not use and can be stored in a refrigerator for up to one week.
- Store bought playdough should be discarded as per the manufacturer's recommendations.

Sensory Play Equipment

- Communal sensory play bins must be cleaned and disinfected after they are dumped and before replenishing.
- Water play bins must be cleaned and disinfected after each activity.
- Sand play tub must be clean everyday and sand must be change everyday.
- Remove any toys that come into contact with a child's mouth during sensory play and place in separate box for disinfecting.

Toy Cleaning and Disinfection

- All used toys must be cleaned and disinfected everyday.
- Toys must be cleaned and rinsed prior to disinfection.



- All toys must be inspected for damage, cracked or broken parts, as these may compromise cleaning. Any toy that is found damaged, cracked or broken should be discarded.
- Toys that are mouthed or are otherwise contaminated by body secretions must be cleaned with warm water and disinfectant or tea tree oil, and then disinfected before handling by another child.
- Outdoor Play Equipment requires cleaning once a week and when visibly soiled or as necessary.
- When cleaning and disinfecting toys you must wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE):
 - When mixing bleach solution: rubber gloves, mask and goggles.
 - When cleaning and disinfecting: rubber gloves and mask (if you have scent sensitivities).

Toy Cleaning and Disinfecting Routine

Step 1: Clean

- First, clean toys in a sink with water and tea tree oil or disinfectant.

Step 2: Rinse

- Use clean water to remove disinfectant or tea tree oil residue.

Step 3: Disinfect

- Immerse the toys into a bucket with warm water and disinfectant or tea tree oil. Leave the toys soak for around 15 minutes.

Step 4: Rinse

- Rinse toys with clean water, then leave it dry under the sun.

