



Toy Cleaning and Disinfecting Policy

Statement of Intent

Highbury Primary School & Nursery is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for children, families and employees. We will take every reasonable precaution to prevent the risk of injury and infectious disease within the Nursery. 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.

General

Employees must ensure the following procedures are followed to reduce the risk of disease transmission among children when playing with toys:

- Playrooms must have access to hand sanitiser and hand-washing facilities.
- Toys must be nonporous and able to withstand rigorous cleaning and repeated exposure to disinfectants.
- Water toys which cause water to stay in them are not to be used. Water play toys must be able to be taken apart for cleaning, disinfecting and drying.
- Toys that are mouthed or contaminated by body secretions shall be removed from the area and are cleaned and disinfected.
- 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 and disinfected on a daily basis.
- All used toys must be cleaned and disinfected weekly and as needed. When cleaning and disinfecting toys, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn.
- Toys must be inspected for damage, cracked or broken parts, as these may compromise cleaning. Any toy that is found to be damaged, cracked or broken should be discarded.

Play Dough

Homemade play dough that is not used must be covered, and can be stored in a refrigerator for up to one week. Alternatively, it should be disposed of at the end of each day. Shop-bought play dough should be stored and discarded as per the manufacturer's instructions.

Outdoor Play Equipment

Outdoor Play Equipment should be cleaned when visibly soiled. It should also be cleaned annually as a minimum.

Dress up Clothes and Soft Toys

All dress up clothes and soft toys will be washed and dried based on the manufacturer's instructions.

Toy Cleaning and Disinfecting Routine

We follow a stringent routine of cleaning and disinfecting:

- **Step 1 - Clean**
Toys are cleaned with detergent and water.
- **Step 2 - Rinse**
Clean water is used to remove any detergent residue.
- **Step 3 - Disinfect**
Toys are immersed into a bowl, sink or vessel of disinfectant. The toys should sit for the appropriate time as stated on the manufacturer's instructions.
- **Step 4 - Rinse**
Rinse toys with clean water and leave them to air dry.

Toy cleaning and disinfecting should increase during an outbreak and/or suspected outbreak.

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