



## Toy Disinfecting Policy and Procedures

### **Purpose**

To ensure that all employees are aware of, and adhere to, Disinfecting Policy regarding toy disinfecting in the re-opening of Discovery Early Learning & Care.

### **Policy**

Discovery Early Learning & Care is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for employees, children and families. Discovery Early Learning & Care will take every reasonable precaution to prevent the risk of communicable diseases within our programs.

This policy applies to all employees, families and children. This policy and procedure will be reviewed and signed off by all employees prior to commencing employment and annually thereafter and at any time where a change is made.

### **Definitions**

**Cleaning:** refers to the physical removal of foreign material (i.e. dust, soil) and organic material (i.e. blood, secretions, microorganisms). Cleaning removes, rather than kills microorganisms. Warm water, detergent and mechanical action (i.e. wiping) is required to clean surfaces. Rinsing with clean water is required to complete the cleaning process to ensure the detergent film is removed.

**Disinfecting:** describes a process completed after cleaning in which a chemical solution, is used to kill most disease-causing microorganisms. In order to be effective disinfectants must be left on a surface for a period of time (contact time). Contact times are generally prescribed by the product manufacturer. Any items children may come into contact with, requires a final rinse after the required contact time is observed.

## **Procedures**

It is important to clean and disinfect all toys, especially toys that may have been placed in children's mouths. Each toy should be cleaned and disinfected before being placed back into circulation.

- Choose toys that are washable, sturdy, and too large to be swallowed to prevent choking.
- Choose toys that can be cleaned and disinfected.
- Avoid plush toys.
- Clean toys when visibly dirty and daily.
- Remove toys from circulation that children have put in their mouths or that have other body fluids on them until they can be cleaned and disinfected. Put in labeled mouth toy bin.
- When cleaning toys, check them for sharp, jagged edges or small pieces that can be easily broken off. If toys cannot be fixed, throw them away.

## **Cleaning**

- Plastic toys that can be submersed in a sink or bucket must be cleaned with dish soap and water.
- Use soap and warm water to clean visibly soiled surfaces.
- Rinse the toys with clean water (warm to tepid temperature preferred) to ensure soap is removed.
- Allow toys to air dry.

## **Disinfecting solutions at each site varies:**

1. Disinfectant Spray Solution (Bottle Labeled)
  - a) Main Site – Bleach solution is (500 ppm or 1:1000 ratio) for small quantities use 5ml of bleach for 500 ml of water or 50 ml of bleach in 5 litres of water. Let stand for 10 minutes for bleach disinfecting.
  - b) School Site Playrooms – Virox Solution for St. John, St. Paul and Holy Trinity. (1:16 dilution) 32 oz bottle use 20 ml of virox with water. Let sit for 5 minutes for disinfecting.
  - c) School Site Kitchens – Enviro Solutions ES65 General Purpose Neutral Disinfectant. This product is premeasured in a dispensing system located in the custodial rooms. Let sit for 10 minutes for disinfecting.

2. Mouthed toys will require a final rinse with water after the required contact time is observed.

### **Wash in Place**

For general environmental disinfection of high-touch surfaces, large toys, and equipment that cannot be immersed in a disinfectant solution use the appropriate disinfectant and contact time.