



## Guidelines for Toy Sanitizing

*Prepared by the Health & Safety Specialists at Child Care Aware® of North Dakota*

- Children in diapers should have washable toys only. Each group should have its own toys and should not share with other groups unless toys are sanitized prior to use.
- All toys that are mouthed during the day should be set aside in an inaccessible container before another child plays with the toys.
- Mouthed toys should be thoroughly washed with soap and water, and sanitized. Toys may be washed and sanitized by hand or by dishwasher.
- To wash and sanitize hard plastic toys:
  1. Soak and scrub the toys in warm, soapy water. Use a brush to get crevices clean.
    - \*\* washing with soap and water is the most important step – it removes any soil from the item (such as nasal drainage, saliva, dust, etc.)
  2. Rinse in clean water then immerse in or spray the toys with a solution of bleach water or other EPA registered sanitizer for recommended contact time
    - \*\* if using another sanitizer other than bleach, it is important to read the manufacturer's label closely to make sure it can be used on toys/food contact surfaces
    - \*\* if you are unsure if a sanitizer is safe to use or if you run out, wash with soap and water until you find a product or get more
  3. Allow toy to air dry or towel dry before it is used by a child. Make sure the toy does not contain the sanitizing solution if the toy was immersed.
- A dishwasher can be used for sanitizing if the facility has a commercial grade dishwasher that has a sanitizing setting or a domestic dishwasher that has heat wash and heat dry settings.
- Cloth toys for children who are still mouthing toys should be limited to use by only one child and cleaned in a washing machine and dried in a clothes dryer after it is mouthed. Cloth toys for children who are not mouthing toys should be cleaned in a washing machine and dried every week or sooner if soiled.
- Toys used by children who do not put these objects in their mouths should be cleaned weekly or sooner if soiled. Soap and water followed by clear water rinsing and air drying should be used. No sanitizing or disinfection is required.
- Objects such as puzzles, books, wood blocks, etc. can be spot cleaned. If contaminated with blood, vomit, urine, etc., it is recommended to throw item away and replace it with new.

*Sources:*

*Model Child Care Health Practices, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2014*  
*CFOC, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2019*

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