

## **TOY AND SURFACE SANITIZING**

Care should be taken to be certain that children do not share toys that they tend to put in their mouths. A basket or some other container should be in the play/activity area, and a toy should then be placed in the basket and removed from the play/activity area as soon as a child has lost interest in it, so it can be washed and sanitized before another child has an opportunity to play with it and put it in his/her mouth. Sanitizing the toys at the end of the day does provide clean toys for the child who first plays with them the next day, however, subsequent use by other children will contaminate the toy. This is especially important while there is any communicable disease present in the facility.

Most toys children are likely to put in their mouths can be sanitized in the dishwasher. If there is no dishwasher in the facility, a three step process should be used. The toys must first be washed in warm, soapy water; rinsed in clear water; and then sanitized. A good and inexpensive sanitizer solution is water and chlorine bleach mixed in a concentration of 50-100 parts per million (1 tsp bleach per gallon water). The toys must be completely submerged in the sanitizing solution for at least one minute. Fabric toys and toys made of other absorbent material that can not be sanitized should not be used in the infant/toddler area. Soft cuddly toys should be considered individual items that are not shared.

Garbage cans, dirty diaper containers, and dirty linen hampers should all have step on lid openers, so there is no handle to be touched.

Door knobs, cabinet pulls, appliance handles, and other surfaces frequently touched should be sanitized daily, especially those in the kitchen, toilet, and diapering areas.

Bathtubs should be sanitized before and after every use. Kitchen sinks should not be used for bathing infants.

Original Document Prepared by Anna Helm, RS, MPH, Multnomah County Health Department  
Revised 2/10 by CHICS Committee during our meetings between Child Care Division staff and Health Department staff in the Tri-County area