Child Care: Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection

Cleaning is the process of physically removing matter (e.g. dust, soil, etc). Cleaning is accomplished with water, detergents, and mechanical action (e.g. scrubbing). Disinfection is the process of killing microorganisms. Disinfection is only effective if the surface has been thoroughly cleaned first.

These are the minimum requirements and objects should always be cleaned and disinfected when visibly soiled. Cleaning and disinfecting is to be increased during periods or increased illness.

Surface	Minimum Frequency of Cleaning & Disinfection	Special Instructions
Toys		
Mouthed toys	After each use	Have a designated bin for these items.
Infant and toddler toys	Daily	
Preschool toys	Weekly	
School aged Toys	Monthly	
Water play table and toys	Daily	Focus on hand hygiene before and after. Change water at least daily.
Sand tables	Monthly	Focus on hand hygiene before and after.
Dress up clothing, plush toys	Launder weekly	Focus on hand hygiene before and after.
High Touch Surfaces and Floors		
Door knobs, door handles, light switches, railings, play tables, chairs	Daily	
Liquid Soap Containers	Before refilling	Re-usable containers must be cleaned and disinfected prior to refilling.
Floors	Daily	
Floor mats	Weekly	
Rugs, carpets, play mats	Vacuum daily	Spot clean as needed. Steam clean/shampoo monthly. Avoid carpets in infant rooms.
Sleeping Areas		
Cribs, cotts, sleeping matts	Weekly	Or when another child will use it.
Bedding	Launder weekly	To be designated for each child.
Washrooms		
Change tables	After each use	
Potty Chairs	After each use	
Garbage Cans	Weekly	
Sinks, taps, toilets, floors	Daily	
Kitchen and Dining Areas		
High chairs, bibs	After each use	
Table tops	After each use	
Food contact surfaces	After each use	
Microwaves, dishwasher, cupboards	Weekly	
Other		
Cleaning cloths	Launder after each use	

Reference: Canadian Paediatric Society (2016). *Cleaning and sanitizing schedule*. Retrieved from: Cleaning_and_sanitizing_ENG_2016