

Equipment and Toy Usage and Restrictions

For healthy development, it is important for children to have access to engaging, developmentally appropriate activities that intrigue and challenge. During these pandemic times, we also must recognize that there are some toys and activities that are inherently safer than others. For example, some materials are harder to disinfect than others (plastic toy vs plush toy) so what it is made out of is an important factor. At KCELC we will take all appropriate actions in order to create a safe learning space for children.

Preparation

Prior to reopening our doors to our families during the training period, teachers will assess and organize which toys and equipment to be used in their program. Please note that until further notice and all plush toys will be removed from the environment. If sensory materials (e.g., playdough, water, sand, etc.) are offered, emphasis should be placed on hand hygiene before and after the use of materials.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Toys and equipment will be cleaned and disinfected at least daily. The commercial, high-temp dishwasher will be used for most toys (water temperature reached 180 degrees, high enough for disinfection). All other toys that cannot fit into a dishwasher will be disinfected manually with Bioesque Botanical Disinfectant (for more info about Bioesque, refer to the Spec Sheet on the Resource section of our COVID-19 webpage).

Mouthed toys will be cleaned and disinfected immediately after the child is finished using it.

Additional Precautions

Toys and activities will be designated for one classroom or cohort – there will be no sharing of toys between classrooms. If a toy or equipment is necessary to be shared to another classroom, they should be cleaned and disinfected prior to being shared.

Procedure Review

This policy and procedure will be reviewed and signed off by all employees/ volunteers prior to commencing employment at KCELC, and at any time where a change is made.