

Cleaning of Toys

All toys, puzzles and games are so much more appealing if they are clean. No-one likes to borrow a dirty toy. We would therefore ask all members to read the following information and special tips.

If your child has been ill, please be sure to let us know if they have had an infectious disease, as we take the precaution of removing your returned items from circulation for two weeks. Also please thoroughly disinfect the toys, but don't soak them in disinfectant, as this can remove colour from some plastics.

Always set aside time to clean toys before returning them to the Toy Library. Many parents do this the night before the toys are due back and then hide them!

Cleaning Kit

- ☐ A cleaning formula which removes grease and kitchen/household smells, eg
 - o Something like Spray and Wipe (for grease)
 - o Vanilla Fridge Wipe (for smells)
 - o Bicarb and vinegar (environmentally friendly and non-toxic)
- ☐ Some disinfectant, like Pine-O-Cleen or Dettol
- ☐ A toothbrush
- ☐ A wettex/sponge
- ☐ A clean tea towel

How to do it

First, if it is appropriate, wash the toy well in a laundry tub full of hot soapy water with some disinfectant in it. Use a toothbrush to get into nooks and crannies. Rinse with hot water and drain or dry with a clean tea towel.

By the way, **please don't use a dishwasher** for our toys as it melts Fisher Price, Lego and Little Tikes toys!

Also, **please don't immerse battery operated toys.**

Special Tips

Kitchen smells on toys, plastic bags and contacted boxes can be removed very effectively with Vanilla Fridge Wipe.

Baby rattles should not be immersed in water if there are parts where the water can get in, as often we can't get it out!

Wooden toys, like Brio train sets need to be washed well with a toothbrush and hot soapy water, but please don't soak any wooden toys in water.

Duplo needs washing as above. The problem with Duplo is the drying. We find rinsing it in very hot water and leaving it to drain overnight does the trick.

Bath toys need lots of grease removing formula and disinfectant. Please don't say these don't need cleaning because they have been in the bath all week!!! And, please don't clean the toys in the children's dirty bath water!!!

Outdoor and sandpit toys do need cleaning just as well as other toys because they may be used inside by the next borrower. Also, always bring these inside in wet weather, hot weather and at night, so they will look better for longer.

Puzzles and game boards can generally be sprayed with spray and wipe and wiped over with a wettex. Please don't immerse wooden puzzles in water.