

OUTDOOR PLAY POOLS

Outdoor water play toys such as play pools are a great “cool down” activity during the warm weather. Although play pools can be fun, they may also be a source of disease transmission if they are not properly maintained. For this reason, play pools are not recommended for children who are not fully toilet trained. If children in diapers are allowed in the play pools, they must wear a waterproof pants that prevents leaks. Sprinklers, hoses or individual buckets are safer and preferable alternatives for outdoor summer water activities.

If the child care setting has play pools, the following requirements must be met:

- Use small hard plastic pools which can be easily emptied by one or two persons
- Water used to fill the play pool is potable and emptied after each use
- Play pools must be cleaned and disinfected after each use
- Play pools must be stored in a clean and sanitary manner when not in use
- If a fouling should occur, remove children immediately from the pool. Put on disposable gloves and use a scoop to remove any solid fecal matter. Dispose of fecal matter in a sanitary manner. Empty water, clean and disinfect the pool. Clean and disinfect the items used to remove the fecal material (e.g., scoops). Remove gloves and wash hands when cleaning and disinfection are complete
- Always ensure children’s hands are washed before and after using the play pool. Washing hands with soap and water removes dirt and disease-causing microorganisms. Hand sanitizer containing 70 to 90% alcohol concentration may also be used to kill disease-causing microorganisms on hands. When hands are visibility soiled, handwashing with soap and water is preferred; if soap and water is not available, hands may be cleaned using a moistened towelette or wipe before using hand sanitizer. Do not use disinfectant wipes to clean hands

For more information refer to *A Public Health Guide For Child Care Providers* at york.ca/ChildCareGuide

Please note that additional public health measures may be advised during an outbreak or pandemic by YRPH and the Ministry of Education.