



Toys, puzzles and games are so much more appealing if they are clean. No one likes to borrow a dirty toy. So always set aside time to clean your toys. Many parents do this the night before and then hide the toys!

Every member is required to take reasonable care of the items they borrow from the Toy Library. **This includes cleaning and drying toys, bags and boxes before returning them.** Please read and follow the information and special tips provided below

## Cleaning Kit

Everyone should have:

- 1 Dish soap, yes, warm soapy water is simple and best
- 2 A cleaning formula which removes grease and kitchen smells, eg
  - Something like Spray & Wipe (for grease)
  - Vanilla Fridge Wipe (for smells)
  - Bicarb soda and vinegar (environmentally friendly and non-toxic) for toys that may go into babies' mouths, using bicarb soda and vinegar to clean them is a good option. Otherwise wipe baby toys clean of all detergents after cleaning.
- 3 Some disinfectant, like Pine-O-Cleen or Dettol
- 4 An old toothbrush
- 5 A dish cloth or wettex
- 6 A clean tea towel
- 7 Toothpicks or skewers and cotton wool to clean nooks and crannies



## How to do it

Wash non-battery operated plastic toys well in a sink full of hot soapy water with some disinfectant in it. **But please don't soak for long periods.** Use the old toothbrush to get into nooks and crannies. Rinse with hot water and drain or dry with a clean tea towel. Please **don't use a dishwasher** as toys can melt & wear out faster.

Now that it is perfectly clean, hide it!

Special advice for different materials like wooden toys is on the next page...

# Special Instructions

- **If your child has been ill**, please disinfect the toys, but don't soak them, as this can remove colour from some plastics. Please also inform the Session Leader.
- **Kitchen smells** on toys, plastic bags and contacted boxes can be removed very effectively with a small amount of Vanilla Fridge Wipe.
- **Baby rattles** do not immerse in water if there are parts where the water can get in, as often we can't get it out!
- **Battery operated toys** do not immerse in water, wipe with a cloth soaked in warm soapy water then air or towel dry.
- **Wooden toys** need to be washed well with a toothbrush and hot soapy water, if they are dirty, but please **don't soak any wooden toys in water**.
- **Duplo** needs washing as above. The challenge with Duplo is the drying. Rinsing it in very hot water and leaving it to drain overnight does the trick.

**Expert tip:** If Duplo is very grimy, put a couple of tablespoons of Napisan in a sink of warm water, soak for 3-4 hours. The dirt just falls off!

- **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!
- **Outdoor & sandpit toys** need to be cleaned just as well as other toys because they may be used inside by the next borrower.
- **Wooden puzzles & game boards** can be wiped with a cloth soaked in warm soapy water then wiped over with a clean wettex. Please check they are dry when put in the bag.
- **Cardboard puzzles & game boards**, wipe with a damp cloth if dirty.
- **Dress Ups** can usually be gently hand washed in warm water. Allow time to wash and dry thoroughly. Some accessories cannot be washed, please note any special instructions on the bag.
- **Raeco Bags & storage boxes** need to be cleaned & looked after too! Please wipe them with warm soapy water or spray cleaner and keep them out of harm's way.

**Expert tip:** After removing the toy from its bag, turn the bag inside-out, clean the inside, then hang it up (away from the kids) to air dry. The day before return, turn it the right way again & wipe the outside before putting the toy back in.

**Final tip:** Items that come packaged in plastic boxes can be washed in their own boxes – cleaning the toy pieces AND the inside of the box at the same time. Remember to keep boxes and bags away from children to prevent damage too!

Thank you for keeping the toys clean and ready for the next little borrower.