Thinking About Healthy Environments

Below you will find scenarios that you might encounter in family child care. Read the following scenarios and describe if you would clean, sanitize and/or disinfect. Consider what you have learned about healthy environments. Review your answers with your trainer, coach or family child care administrator.

1. Your children have just completed a creative activity with playdough at the dining room table. Next, you plan on serving snack at the same table. What do you do prior to serving snack?

   Clean the table with soapy water to remove any remaining debris and dirt. Then sanitize the table with the appropriate bleach solution. Tables should be cleaned and sanitized before and after they are used.

2. Two children are playing in the dramatic play area. While pretending they are dining in a restaurant Chloe puts her mouth on one of the toy tea cups to sip. What do you do with that cup?

   Remove that toy cup from the play area. Place that toy, and others that have been placed in children’s mouths throughout the day in a ‘mouthed toy’ bucket or bin away from children. At the end of the day clean and sanitize any mouthed toys. All mouthed toys should be cleaned and sanitized before being used again by children.

3. You have just finished changing Tesfa’s diaper on the changing table. What do you do before you return to play with the children?

   Remember to wash your hands and Tesfa’s hands when you are finished changing his diaper. The changing table should be cleaned and disinfected with bleach solution immediately after changing the child, before any other child’s diaper is changed.