

# Bleach as a Disinfectant for Child Care Centres

Household bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite) is an inexpensive disinfectant that can be used to make a high-level, intermediate-level or a low-level disinfectant to suit your needs.

|                                | Low Level   | Intermediate Level   | High Level   |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>When &amp; where to use</b> | Daily Kitchen use (or as needed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dishwashing</li> <li>▪ Food contact surfaces</li> <li>▪ Utensils</li> </ul>                               | Daily use within the classrooms and centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child care surfaces (e.g. toys, diapering station, pet cages, or any other high touch surfaces)</li> </ul> | As needed within the classrooms and centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Blood and body fluid clean-up including feces and vomit</li> <li>▪ During outbreaks</li> </ul> |
| <b>*Concentration required</b> | 100ppm  | 1000 ppm   | 5000 ppm   |
| <b>How to make it</b>          | 1:500 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 ml (4 tsps.) bleach + 10 L water ( 40 cups or approx. 2 gallons) OR</li> <li>• 1 ml (1/4 tsp) + 500 ml water (2 cups).</li> </ul> | 1:50 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 ml (4tsps.) bleach + 1000 ml ( 4 cups) water OR</li> <li>• 100 ml ( 7 cups) bleach + 5000 ml ( 20 cups) water</li> </ul>                      | 1:10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 62 ml (¼ cup) bleach + 562 ml (2 ¼ cups) water OR</li> <li>• 250 ml (1 cup) bleach + 2250 ml (9 cups) water</li> </ul>               |
| <b>Contact time</b>            | 45 seconds  | 2 minutes  | 2 minutes  |
| <b>Drying</b>                  | Air dry   | Air dry  | Air dry  |

\*Concentrations are an approximation

## Remember:

- A bleach solution must be prepared fresh daily to ensure maximum efficacy
- Clean any surface before the disinfection step
- Chlorine test strips must be used to ensure the solution is at the correct concentration
- Ensure all spray bottles or buckets are labeled when transferring/storing bleach solutions. 37517
- Do not use laundry bleach or scented bleach.
- Do not mix with other chemicals or cleaning products

## Questions?

Contact the Brant County Health Unit at 519-753-4937 and ask to speak to a Public Health Inspector