

TABLE WASHING PROCEDURE

1. To remove gross soil, spray the table (or highchair tray) with a soap-water solution and wipe dry with a disposable paper towel.
2. To sanitize the eating surface, spray the table/tray with bleach-water solution and wait 2 minutes to allow the solution to kill germs, before wiping with a disposable towel or allow to air dry. The surface cannot be sprayed and immediately wiped.

Additional precautions

- Sponges should not be used for sanitizing tables because they soak bacteria away from the surface of the sponge, which then cannot be easily reached in the interior of the sponge by the sanitizing agent.
- If wet clothes are used, a separate cloth is required for each table/tray, and cloths cannot be returned to soak in a bleach-water solution.
- Food should not be put directly on the table or highchair tray because eating surfaces are more likely to be contaminated than disposable plates or washed and sanitized dishes
- If highchair trays are used as eating surfaces, the trays should be washed and sanitized in the same way as plates and other food service utensils.
- In case different children rotate through snack, each place must be cleaned and sanitized between use by different children. Sanitizing solution should not be sprayed while children are seated at the table.

Sources: *Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale Revised Edition*. Harms, I., Cryer, D., Clifford R., pp. 10, 29. *All About ECERS-R*. Harms, T., Cryer, D., Riley, C" pp. 114, 124. American Academy Of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association and National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education (2012). *Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 3rd Edition*. Elk Grove Village, IL; American Academy of Pediatrics and Washington, DC: American Public Health Association. Also available at <http://nrc.uchsc.edu>.