



Hygiene for the smallest hands

In all their curiosity, children touch many things, share toys and have a lot of physical contact with other children. This, and the fact that they do not yet have such a strong immune system, increases the risk of infection.

In places with many children, there are additional risks when it comes to the spread of germs. Children show behaviors that increase the risk of cross-contamination; they often touch their face, nose and mouth, which leads to germs and viruses on their hands.

Did you know that one child in daycare infects an average of 2.4 other children when sick? Employees are not spared either and this can lead to staff shortages.

To prevent bacteria from spreading and causing illnesses, proper hand hygiene is crucial.

Regular hand washing reduces the risk of infection by up to 70%. And staff absenteeism can be reduced by 35% to 60%. All the more important, to think about a good handwashing policy among both children and staff to promote health in the daycare center.



1.000x

Wet hands spread 1,000 times more bacteria than dry hands.¹

20 %

Of the common cold can be prevented by regular and proper hand washing.²

200 Mio.

Up to 200 million bacteria can be present on the hands after a visit to the toilet.³

80 %

According to the WHO, infections between people are transmitted via the hands.

1) Patrick, D.R. Findon, G., Miller, T.E., Epidemiology and Infection

2) Bundesgesundheitsministerium

3) University of Erfurt in collaboration with the German Federal Center for Health Education (BZgA)



Why?

Catch them young

The saying 'catch them young' certainly applies when it comes to hand hygiene. The 'why' of handwashing does maybe not yet fully sink in with young children, nor do they enjoy it when they have to interrupt their activities to go and wash their hands. This can be a challenge, so it is beneficial for the staff and children of the daycare center to have a clear structure for this. That means making the 'how' and 'when' clear to everyone. But above all it is essential to get children excited about the subject of hand hygiene, and to get them used to basic hygiene from an early age. They will benefit from it for the rest of their lives.

When?

Create a clear structure

Hand washing is important for both staff and children. This, as mentioned, is often easier for adults to understand than it is for children. They need to be reminded of it and should be supervised by the employees. Having a clear structure helps the children to understand it better. Try to stick to the structure so that a habit develops.

Fixed handwashing times could include before lunch, after playing in the garden, and after using the restroom, for example.

How?

Make it fun!

Knowing when to apply hand hygiene is half the battle. But if you want to get children excited about the subject of hand hygiene, you need a little more than that. Hand washing must then become a fun activity. The fun already starts with modifying the washroom facilities to make them suitable for children. Make sure the washroom is clean, but does not look too sterile, use color so that it is a space where children like to come. For example, put a fun poster on the wall showing the steps for hand washing. For children who find hand washing difficult or unpleasant, you can work with a reward system. Consider giving a sticker or a stamp every time a child washes their hands completely independently and according to the correct steps. After five stickers or stamps, the child receives a handwashing certificate. Example behavior from adults is also very important. Try to wash your hands together and make it a fun moment.

Who?

Establish fixed agreements

In addition to these fixed moments of hand hygiene, it is important to establish certain agreements with the staff, such as wearing jewelry during work and the length of fingernails. Also, ensure that areas like bathrooms, kitchens, sleeping and resting areas, as well as play areas, are kept properly clean, and that equipment and toys are regularly cleaned or washed and appropriately maintained. Develop suitable toilet and diaper-changing routines as well. It is also advisable to use a surface cleaner for tables, changing tables, highchairs, and doorknobs.



Also good to know

Touchless dispensers

Most kids are fascinated by towel rolls that automatically retract and non-touch dispensers with their 'magic eye'. And that is great, because in addition to being fun to use, they are also much more hygienic than the touch variety. Because the dispenser does not have to be touched to get the soap out, the transfer of bacteria and pathogens through a surface is a thing of the past. In addition, non-touch dispensers allow you to reduce waste because the dispensing quantity is adjustable. This way you make sure the amount of soap is just right for the smaller hands.

What is the advantage of foam soap?

Handwashing is a daily routine in daycare centers and is one of the simplest and most effective ways to prevent the transmission of diseases. To make it sustainable, using foaming soap is a good idea: it requires less water to lather, and it's easier to distribute and rinse off. This significantly reduces both soap and water consumption. Up to 2.2 million liters of soap can be saved annually.



Can cotton towel rolls really be used hygienically in a daycare center?

Yes! When the towel dispenser features an automatic retraction system and an internal 2-chamber system, each pair of hands receives a fresh supply of towels, as clean and soiled parts of the towel roll are reliably separated. Especially for children's skin, the sensation of using cotton towels for drying hands is more pleasant than paper towels. Additionally, cotton is very hygienic as its fibers can absorb a lot of moisture. The environment also benefits: fabric towel rolls consume up to 48% less energy than paper. On top of that it saves mess: no more paper towel waste flying around the washroom.

What is the EU Ecolabel?

The EU Ecolabel is used throughout the European Union to identify products and services that are more environmentally friendly than comparable ones. Because children have more sensitive skin than adults, using sustainable and sensitive soaps in daycare centers makes particular sense. Therefore, when selecting soap, look for this label, but also check if the soap is pH-neutral and allergen-free.





Optimal protection through tailor made solutions

CWS promotes hand hygiene for staff and children

In the routine of everyday life, hand hygiene is of utmost importance. In close collaboration with you, CWS strives to find individually tailored solutions that ensure the best possible protection for your staff and the children in daycare centers.

Scan this QR code for more information or contact us directly at:

+49 6103 - 309 309 3



1

Hands Washing



2

Hands Disinfect



Pour the prescribed amount of disinfectant into your palm and wet your palms completely with it

