



## Indoor Space

ECERS-R Indicator	Why is this important?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate lighting, temperature control, and sound absorbing materials.</li> <li>• There should be some natural light and natural light should be able to be controlled by blinds/curtains.</li> <li>• There should be good ventilation and staff should be able to control ventilation with windows or fan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a space is too cold or too warm children and adults may become uncomfortable. It is much easier for both adults and children to do "their work" when comfortable!</li> <li>• If noise levels are too high it could affect language development and it also creates tension and over-excitement and prevent children from sustained involvement in constructive play and learning.</li> <li>• Natural light can be too bright at times, causing glare that can interfere with classroom activities.</li> <li>• Odors from the bathroom, or from cleaning products could cause an unpleasant smell for staff and/or children.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Space is in good repair and there are no major repair problems that represent health and/or safety risks.</li> <li>• Space is reasonably clean and well-maintained. There is evidence of daily maintenance, such as floors vacuumed and/or mopped, big messes (meals) are cleaned up promptly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The condition of the space is important because it affects the comfort, health and safety of the program. Space that is in poor repair or poorly maintained encourages rough and neglectful behavior towards the surroundings and materials, and can also be dangerous to a child's health.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Space used for children should be accessible to children and/or adults with disabilities. This would include the entire space used (classrooms, bathrooms, entry, hallways, stairs with no ramp or elevator).             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Doorways must be at least 32 inches wide.</li> <li>○ Door handles must be operated with limited use of hands.</li> <li>○ Entrance thresholds should be ½ inch or less, but if over ¼ inch, must be beveled to roll over easy.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility is legally required in all public facilities so that everyone can have equal opportunity to use the service, and is therefore required at the good level for all centers.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ample indoor space for children, adults, and furnishings.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Children and adults should be able to move freely around the room.</li><li>○ Furnishings should not crowd the room.</li><li>○ Spacious open area for children to play.</li><li>○ Enough room for equipment needed for children with disabilities.</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The amount of space in the room is important because it affects both the comfort and self-image of the children who are playing in the room and the efficiency of the staff as they try to meet the needs of the preschoolers. The amount of space can also effect the number and types of play activities that children can engage in at the same time. Insufficient space can lead to conflicts among children due to crowding, and can also create safety hazards from the cluttered conditions. It can also cause limitations in the program because materials easily become disorganized or must be minimized if the space in which they are used is cramped.</li></ul>
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SOURCE: *Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS)*

