



## Indoor space

| ITERS-R Indicator   | Why is this important?  |
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| <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 efficiency of the staff as they try to meet the many routine care needs of infants and toddlers, and the number and types of play activities the 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>  |
| <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, as well as the self-image of the children and adults who spend many hours in the room daily. Space that is in poor repair or poorly maintained encourages rough and neglectful behavior towards the surroundings and materials, and can also be depressing and dangerous.</li> </ul>  |
| <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>• When the room is too dark it may be difficult for staff to supervise visually, seeing babies breathing while sleeping or seeing what a toddler is putting into their mouth. It is also difficult to use materials comfortably that require close attention.</li> <li>• If a space is too cold or too warm children and adults may become uncomfortable.</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 soiled diapers, the bathroom, or from cleaning products could cause an unpleasant smell for staff and/or children.</li> </ul> |

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| <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>• Floors, walls, and other built-in surfaces should be made of easy to clean materials.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Washable floors/floor coverings/rugs, paint/wallpaper, counters, and cabinets.</li></ul></li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Since infants, toddlers, and young twos are very vulnerable to infectious diseases, frequent washing and disinfecting of counter tops and other built-in surfaces are needed to protect their health.</li></ul> |

SOURCE: *Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS)*

