



## Furniture for Routine Care and Play

ITERS-R Indicator	Why is this important?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enough furniture for routine care.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adequate sized cubbies for children's personal belongings – Each child must have an individual cubby that is not shared. Personal belongings must be reasonably separated.</li> <li>○ High chairs, small tables and chairs for feeding.</li> <li>○ Cribs, pack-n-plays, mats, or cots for sleeping.</li> <li>○ Diapering table and storage for diaper supplies.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Enough furniture for play.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Small tables and chairs or infant seats.</li> <li>○ Low open shelves or baskets/containers/buckets for all accessible toys.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All furniture is sturdy and in good repair.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Will not break, fall over, or collapse when in use.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furniture in the classroom should support the children's independence in meeting their routine care needs and in conducting their play and learning activities. Being able to handle their surroundings independently helps children feel competent and secure. Staff working with groups of young children need to make the best use of their time and energy to help children learn good self-help skills.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Having adequate sized cubbies prevents the spread of lice and scabies.</li> <li>○ Small tables and chairs are useful for working with puzzles and other table top toys, as well as serving meals.</li> <li>○ Low open shelves help in the organization of materials and give children opportunities to make independent choices about materials they want to use.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Furniture should also be safe, appropriately sized, and available in sufficient quantity for the total number of children enrolled in the group.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairs for children are comfortable and supportive.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Vast majority of the children.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When seats are comfortable and supportive children are not in danger of falling or slipping out of them or tipping over while they are seated. Children need to also feel secure when they move around in the seats.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furniture is suitable for individual care of infants/toddlers.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No group feeding tables. Individual high chairs or small table and chairs.</li> <li>○ Individual cubbies labeled with their name.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual high chairs prevent interruptions and sharing of food. Each child has their own individual tray. Children that sit in small tables and chairs can be spaced appropriately by staff.</li> <li>• Individual storage of children's possessions is important because it prevents confusion for the parent who must store and retrieve their children's things, and also prevents the spread of germs.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furniture promotes self-help as children are ready.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ At least 2 different provisions, one in routines and one in play.</li> <li>○ Steps near sink, low open shelves and accessibility of toys</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting self help is important to help children become ready for more independence. Placing steps or a sturdy platform helps young toddlers become more actively involved in washing their own hands. If low open shelves are available older infants and toddlers can reach and select toys by themselves.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convenient, organized storage for extra toys and supplies is available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having extra storage for supplies like diapers/wipes prevents staff from running out of needed supplies. Having storage for extra toys helps staff exchange accessible materials with less familiar ones. Convenience prevents staff from leaving children unsupervised.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comfortable adult seating for working with children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult seating allows staff to carry out routines throughout the day without injuring themselves or spreading germs from getting up and down off the floor.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine care furniture accessible and convenient. Furniture should be placed so that staff are not required to leave the children or interrupt their supervision.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cots/mats in room</li> <li>○ Diapering table and supplies together in room</li> <li>○ Cubbies – easy access by parents and staff. If children allowed access must be stored in room.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since infants will most likely be on individual schedule, routine care activities such as feeding, diapering, and napping will be ongoing throughout the day. If the furniture needed to conduct these routines are placed conveniently in the room, fewer interruptions in supervision will happen. Older toddlers and twos may be starting to nap and eat in small groups. These are busy times. Having all furniture in the room helps to accomplish an efficient and smooth transition.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most (75%) of the tables and chairs used with toddlers are child-sized.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Feet touch the floor, does not have to be flat on the floor.</li> <li>○ Knees fit under the table.</li> <li>○ Elbows are above the surface.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child-sized chairs allow children to sit back in the chair with feet touching the floor (not necessarily flat on the floor). Children should not have to perch on edge of the chair for their feet to touch the floor. Child-sized table allows children's knees to fit under the table while their elbows are comfortably above the table surface.</li> </ul>

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

