



Room Arrangement

ITERS-R Indicator	Why is this important?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 3 different types of play spaces must be provided for Toddlers indoors to allow for different kinds of experiences. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Active play area, quiet play area, and a messy materials play area must be provided. ○ More specific areas can be used (books, fine motor play, dramatic play, blocks, nature/science, art, or sand/water). • Minimum of 3 different types of play spaces must be provided for Infants indoors to allow for different kinds of experiences. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Space to move freely and space to play with different types of toys (quiet play, like books, rattles, and other small toys and more active play like tunnels to crawl through). • Space and play surfaces should be suitable for the type of material being used. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Blocks need steady surface; scribbling requires a hard surface under the paper • Materials with similar use should be placed together to create interest areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Infants: rattle or soft toy area, crawling area. ○ Toddlers: books, music, push toys, manipulative toys, and gross motor area. • Traffic patterns should not interfere with activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Areas for quiet and active play are separated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable space needs to be provided to help children experience success with a variety of different activities. Interest areas will make play more convenient for the children. • By having materials with similar use organized together children gradually learn about order in their world. They develop a sense of where to access materials, where it is appropriate to use them, and where they can be put back to find them the next time. • The placement of furniture in a room helps to determine traffic patterns, along with the fixed features of the room. High traffic areas such as the space near doorways and the bathroom, should be kept free of activities because of the possibility of constant interruptions. Furniture should be used to direct traffic around activity areas. Think of potential dangers and where you would like to keep children away from.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine care areas conveniently arranged. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Crib/cots placed for easy access. ○ Diapering supplies at hand. ○ Warm running water available where needed. ○ Feeding tables on easy to clean floor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision becomes an issue if staff are not able to carry out their caregiving duties efficiently. Having supplies and materials in convenient locations allow staff to easily access them and safely carry out their duties.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangement of room makes it possible for staff to see all children at a glance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Major problems are listed on page 38-39 in <i>All About ITERS</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extreme vulnerability of very young children to illness, accidents, and injuries make it necessary for staff to maintain close visual supervision of the group at all times.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If child with disability is enrolled in the group most play spaces must be accessible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children with disabilities need to be able to freely interact with others and feel safe and secure in the environment like all children. Most means only a few exceptions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toys are stored for easy access on low open shelves in containers that are accessible or they can be brought to non-mobile infants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If toys are simply left out, are all over the floor, or not cleaned up, they are not ready to use by children and aren't easily accessible.

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

