



## Furniture for Routine Care, Play, and Learning

FCCERS-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/diaper bag/backpack/laundry basket that is not shared. Personal belongings must be have to be reasonably separated.</li> <li>○ High chairs, booster seats, 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> <li>○ Routine furniture must be used for routine care and not for other purposes.</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 program 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. Providers working with groups of 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>• All furnishings well cared for.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sheets changed weekly or more.</li> <li>○ Tables washed and sanitized before and after eating or washed after art activity.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheets and blankets should be cleaned to make sure they don't have bed bugs or lice and in case of bodily fluids. Tables being washed and sanitized helps reduce the spread of germs between children.</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, special chair for child with disability, low open shelves and accessibility of toys, special storage accessible only to school-agers.</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. School-agers are able to use materials that should not be accessible to younger children.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some storage used for extra toys and supplies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having extra storage for supplies like diapers/wipes prevents providers from running out of needed supplies. Having storage for extra toys helps providers exchange accessible materials with less familiar ones.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most (75%) tables/chairs used for eating, play and learning activities made suitable to children's size.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cushions or boosters seats used with adult chairs to prevent need for children to kneel.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• At least one child-sized table with chairs used for toddler/older children if enrolled.</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>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine care furniture accessible and convenient. Furniture should be placed so that providers are not required to leave the children or interrupt supervision.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cots/mats easy for providers to access.</li> <li>○ Place to store diapers/diapering supplies near diapering table.</li> <li>○ Cubbies – easy access by parents, providers and older children.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since infants will most likely be on individual schedule, routines 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. Convenient placement will minimize lapses in supervision.</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 providers to carry out routines throughout the day without injuring themselves or spreading germs from getting up and down off the floor.</li> </ul>

SOURCE: Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS)

