

# Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS-R)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question	Date	Answer
<p>Would high chairs that attach to the table count as unsafe or how would you rate this item in a home that uses these?</p>	<p>2/23/13</p>	<p>This could be a “no” at #2, 5.1 because seats where children’s legs are dangling are not considered suitable or child-sized. We are also not sure if there has been a recall on this type of clip-on seat because of safety issues. It may be a good idea for the provider and/or yourself to check and see if there has been a recall on that type of seat; from the picture, it appears as if the seat-part is short.</p>
<p>#20 Dramatic Play, 5.1 – the notes for clarification state that at least 2 themes are required for preschoolers and older children. The provider has a housekeeping area with some child sized furniture, dolls, props, etc. Also in the area are dress up clothes including different costumes/props including a doctor’s lab coat and doctor kit, hard hat, princess clothes, etc. Elsewhere in her setting, she has dinosaur figurines, puppets, Barbies, and a big wooden dollhouse that are all accessible (and hopefully much of the day – I haven’t observed yet). She also showed me some masks that they use to act out stories – but I’m not sure if they are used daily or rotated in for special activities.</p> <p>She does not have infants right now. The toddler can use the housekeeping area/props, soft stuffed animals, puppets, toy telephones, and a boat with larger size figurines.</p> <p>To me, it looks like 5.1 would be met with at least 2 themes – housekeeping and fantasy. Does this sound correct? I think the “themes” are throwing me off for some</p>		<p>It sounds like she has credit; we’re pretty loose with the “themes” in ECERS; for example, a bin of little people in the blocks counts for a theme. So we basically use the same line of logic with FCCERS. Even the big dollhouse would probably count if it had little people and furnishings.</p> <p>Animals and transportation vehicles in the block area count as a second theme.</p>

reason and because the costumes are available in the housekeeping area.		
Does it count against the providers if the infant eat their meals in a highchair? Furniture for routine care, play and learning 5.1/7.1	2/23/13	If children are able to sit up then a high chair should be ok for #2 Furniture for routine care, play and learning; keep in mind that it is difficult to accurately answer without seeing the size of high chair and ability / age of infant.
On p. 7 of the FCCERS under #1 it states, "If the family child care home is broken into separate groups with different providers and children rarely come together, a separate observation is required for each group." How is "rarely comes together" defined? For instance I have been working with a group home that has their basement divided into 2 separate spaces by a floor to ceiling wall. The provider has all children together during arrival, breakfast, lunch, nap, snack, and end of day. They are separated by ages for 1-2 hours in the morning and maybe 1 hour in the afternoon. Will this affect them?	3/14/13	We have been splitting our time between the two providers and checking materials, etc. in both rooms.  If infants/toddlers are present, we follow the infants/toddlers most of the time, for MOD purposes.
In the Activity Section of the FCCERS, in the item of Art specifically, should the provider have a specific number of items that meet each of the categories?  For example, two different materials from each of the four types of materials; meaning that they would have drawing materials, then two types of paints; playdough and clay; a couple of collage materials; and scissors and tape.  Or, at least two different materials from the four types? For example, a provider could have drawing materials, and then a paint and playdough.	3/24/13	It means two different materials from four types of materials; so she doesn't need materials from each of the five types. So if she has four of those five types of materials (two each) she should be fine.
How are family child care homes assessed when children are separated into age groups and are in different areas of the home? For example: a family child care home has children separated with preschool on one level, infant/toddlers on a different level of the home or the children are separated into		Because FCCERS-R uses "Much of the Day" to determine children's access to materials, assessors will primarily stay with the infant/toddler group. However, during the observation, assessors will periodically go between rooms/levels to observe preschool or school-age children and gather

two rooms and both not within easy visual range.		information on language, schedule, materials, equipment and furnishings for those age groups.
Can siblings from the same family share cubby space?		Yes, they can share space; however, each child will still need enough space to store their personal belongings (papers, art work, etc.).
Display for children. DCFS says only 20% of wall space can be covered. How does a provider meet this indicator and still be in compliance with DCFS?		It looks like this standard is related to wall space. Providers may consider displaying some items on the sides or backs of shelves or other pieces of furniture.
Much of the day-Family providers open 2 shifts 6am – 12 midnight would materials need to be accessible for at least two or more hours a day?		No. We base the assessment on a 12 hour day.
Item 2, indicator 3.1  If the provider does not have any shelves or cubbies to store toys and materials, but the toys and materials are on the floor divided into block play, dramatic play, books, etc., would this setup be okay?		Item 2 Furniture for routine care, play and learning indicator 3.2 requires enough furniture for play and learning for all ages/abilities of children enrolled. The note for clarification states, "Sufficient easily accessible storage for play and learning materials is required to earn credit for this indicator. Accessible storage that accommodates very few materials does not meet the requirement for this indicator."
Our FCC cohort group has been brainstorming about how to accomplish proper hand washing without losing MOD. They struggle with lining them up when they come in from outside... Would it be ok to have a basket of "dirty" toys for the kids to play with so they have access to materials while they are lined up, as well as the basket of sanitized "table" toys for after the hand washing? One FCC provider states that during her assessment she sang and did finger plays with the kids while they were lined up and still missed MOD.		All of these ideas are great, including singing songs and doing finger plays. The challenge is if a child becomes bored and no longer wants to participate but if forced to remain in line or in the group it could start the clock ticking for "much of the day."
I have been to a couple FCC homes who have their children sleep in a separate room without anyone in the room to supervise them. I looked in the DCFS regulations and didn't see much about this. It does say that napping should be supervised, but do monitors count?		Here is the note for clarification for Item 8 Nap/rest, indicator 3.3 "Sufficient supervision" means that provider is present to protect children's health and safety and to supervise children who are awake. Provider is alert and can visually supervise infants; toddlers and preschoolers can be heard, and are visually checked periodically during nap. Monitors would be fine for toddlers and preschoolers as long as the provider did periodic visual checks. Infants must be within view.

Item 2: Space for personal belongings	1/9/12	If hooks are used for personal belongings, they must be spaced out enough so that children can hang coats so that they do not touch in order for this to potentially count as sufficient cubby space. Also, if all belongings are placed in bags which are hung on hooks, this can be counted as sufficient cubby space, even if the bags are touching, as long as each child has a reasonable space for their belongings. If there is a substantial amount of overlapping with the bags, so that it is difficult for children to access their things, then the space would not be sufficient. Generally the score is based on what is observed; possible scenarios for different times of the year are not considered.
In the FCCERS it states that if babies cannot hold their head up a wipe is acceptable to wash hands. Are you accepting this or saying that they need to hold the baby and wash their hands in the sink?		The question about handwashing for infants would be the same for the ITERS as for the FCCERS. We would expect to see teachers wipe infants' hands, infants who could not hold their heads up, with wipes for handwashing.

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