

Additional Notes for Clarification of the ITERS-R

These notes were developed by Thelma Harms and Debby Cryer to improve the interrater agreement among North Carolina Rated License Assessors. These notes do not change any of the requirements in the printed scales, they merely add additional information to help in accurate scoring.

Be sure to replace older notes with newer notes.

Most recent changes are in blue:

1/5/04: (Grammatical changes)

8/18/03: General Notes and Items 1, 7, 10, 14, 16, 19, 24

General Notes for ITERS-R: The term “weather permitting” is used in several items of the scale with regard to when children can participate in outdoor activities. “Weather permitting means almost every day, unless there is active precipitation, extremely hot or cold conditions, or public announcements that advise people to remain indoors due to weather conditions such as high levels of pollution, extreme cold or heat that might cause health problems. It is sometimes said, “There is no bad weather; only bad clothes.” Therefore, children should be dressed properly and taken outdoors on most days. This might require that the schedule be changed to allow children outdoor play in the early morning when it will be very hot later in the day. Or it might require that the program ensure that children have boots, and a change of clothes for a day when the grass is wet. After bad weather, staff should check the outdoor area, dry off equipment, sweep away water, or block off puddles, and so forth, as needed before children go out. Programs with protected outdoor areas, such as a deck or patio are more likely to be able to meet the requirements for allowing outdoor activity daily, weather permitting.

Item

Note

1. Indoor space	1.1, 3.1, 5.1 In evaluating the adequacy of indoor space, consider the maximum number of children and adults who may use the space on any day, whether there is enough space for furnishings and materials required for basic care and play, and the total amount of space that may be used. Space that appears to be adequate, because the basic furnishings and materials for routines and/or play are lacking, or very few children are present, must be considered in terms of how it would work if the basics and all the children were present. If a classroom is located in a very large room but staff are only allowed to use a small part of the room, base the adequacy on the amount of space the classroom may use. However, if the classroom is allowed to use the entire space in a large room and staff choose to use only a small portion of the space, credit can be given for the total amount of space in the room. Any crowding in this case is due to the way the staff chooses to organize the large space and should be considered in Item 4, Room arrangement.
7. Meals/snacks	3.5 A food/beverage substitution made in case of allergies must meet the primary meal/snack nutrient contribution of the food/beverage it replaces. For example, in the case of milk, the substitute beverage needs to be equal in calcium and protein. Therefore, water, juice, or calcium-enriched juice is not a milk substitute since it does not replace the protein, but a vegetarian milk, such as soy milk, is. To get additional information about whether substitutes can be credited, ask staff, “How are substitutions made for foods/beverages children cannot eat?”
10. Health	3.2 There are 4 categories of handwashing that must be tracked to score this indicator. These 4 categories are: 1) Upon arrival into classroom, and re-entering classroom after being outside, 2) Before water play or after messy play, 3) After dealing with bodily fluids or making significant skin contact, and 4) After touching contaminated surfaces/objects, such as

	<p>trash cans, pets. To score, observers should be aware of times that handwashing is carried out when needed. This means that the observer should watch (and listen). For example, observers should listen for coughing or sneezing by the children and staff, or watch for noses that need wiping to see that the proper handwashing is carried out. Notes should be taken on the score sheet to indicate that handwashing has been carried out properly when needed, and when it has been ignored.</p> <p>The 75% of required handwashing must be calculated separately for staff and children, but the percent should be based on a the total handwashing in all categories. If either group washes hands less than 75% of the time when needed, score 3.1 “No.”</p>
14. Using books	3.2 For almost all books to be in good repair requires that no more than 3 books accessible to the children can be in poor repair. Books that are not in good repair can not be counted to meet the requirements for the number of books listed in 1.1, 3.1, and 5.1.
16. Active physical play	In this item, the terms “equipment” and “materials” are used interchangeably.
19. Blocks	3.1, 5.1. 7.1 A “set” of blocks means a group of blocks that is designed to be used together. In determining whether a number of blocks can be considered a “set” they must be of the same type and composition. They may differ in shape , size and color, but must obviously be designed to be used as a group. Different sets of blocks cannot be combined to give credit for one set.
24. Promoting acceptance of diversity	5.1, 5.2 Small dolls, used for example with a doll house or for block play, count as dolls for these indicators. Puppets count as materials, but not as dolls.