

SACERS-U Changes

(Information from ERSI website)

The School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale-Updated (SACERS-U) is an updated edition of the School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS) and uses the same design as the other Environment Rating Scales. While there are new expectations for some SACERS-U items, the updated edition is not a revision of the SACERS scale. This document provides an overview of the changes.

Format changes

- One item per page with Notes for Clarification below.
- Indicators have been numbered.
- There are minor changes to wording throughout the scale that do not affect indicator expectations.
- Scoring exceptions have been eliminated.

Item changes within the scale

- SACERS Item #4 and #4a combined into “updated” Room arrangement item.
- SACERS Items #9 and #11 combined into “updated” item considering both the school-age program space and provisions to support program staff.

Items with minimal changes

- Many of the new indicators resulted from splitting SACERS indicators.
- Expectations have been specified for types/quantities of materials or frequency of activities for some indicators (Arts and crafts, Blocks, and Math/reasoning activities)
- For some items, indicators are the same but the order within a quality level is different (Language/reading activities, Emergency and safety policy)

Expectations for indicators defined differently

- SACERS-U Item #8 Furnishings for gross motor activities - Indicators 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3: To give credit for “variety” and “stimulates many skills” consider both stationary and portable equipment to see that at least five different skills are possible.*
- SACERS-U Item #11 Health policy – Indicator 3.4: Changed to meet state requirements
- SACERS-U Item #18 Personal hygiene - Indicator 5.1: Hand hygiene is generally practiced as part of daily routine.
- SACERS-U Item #21 Blocks and construction - Indicators 3.1, 5.1, and 7.1: Requires some blocks or/and interlocking construction materials.*

New expectations

- SACERS-U Item #7 Furnishings for relaxation - Indicator 5.2: Children have access to many soft furnishings for at least one-third of the time they are in care.
- SACERS-U Item #20 Music - Indicator 5.2: Various types of musical experiences are accessible. * *...children should have the option of using them for at least 30 minutes daily.* (Note for Clarification)
- SACERS-U Item #25 Science - Indicator 3.2: Some science/nature books used to extend children’s information. Indicator 5.2: Children are involved in caring for AND observing living things. Indicator 5.3: Special activities to give children a more extended opportunity to observe nature, offered at least twice a year.
- SACERS-U Item #35 Communication between program staff and children’s classroom teachers: Defines specific types of information to be exchanged at all quality levels.*
- SACERS-U Item #36 Schedule - Indicator 3.3: At least one fine motor/language activity scheduled daily.