

School Age Care Environment Rating Scale Updated (SACERS - U)

WISCONSIN INTERPRETATIONS

11/18/16

As technical assistance occurs in child care programs, it is important for YoungStar Technical Consultants, providers, and other trainers/technical assistance providers to provide information on what the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS-R), Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ITERS-R), Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale-Revised (FCCERS-R), and/or SACERS-U tools will be looking at, and also on the intent of the ECERS-R, ITERS-R, FCCERS-R, and/or SACERS-U observation. When Wisconsin licensing regulations are in contrast to environment rating scale quality indicators, the Wisconsin licensing rules take precedence.

TERMS

CAPACITY - For the Registry Program Profile, the process to determine school-age groups follows licensing ratios:

- Licensed programs with licensed capacity will use licensing rules to determine groups/classrooms and staff to child ratios (not to exceed)
 - 4 to 5 years 1:13 (Adult/Child Ratio) 1:24 (Group Size)
 - 5 to 6 years 1:17 (Adult/Child Ratio) 1:34 (Group Size)
 - 6 years and older 1:18 (Adult/Child Ratio) 1:36 (Group Size)
- Exempt programs will use average daily enrollment to determine groups/classrooms
 - These programs do not have a licensed capacity number reported.

For the SACERS observation in a Formal Rating, the Wisconsin licensing rules will determine the groups/rooms and staff to child ratios.

To determine age appropriate for School Age Programs, materials can be supportive of the following age groups or in large programs by segmenting grade levels.

Example:

- K – 3rd Grade
- 4th – 6th Grade

VARIED - There are 3 – 5 materials/items available for children. Program must have at least 2 types of items for each age group. Number of items must be of sufficient quantity. Items must be sufficient so that children do not have to wait long periods of time to use equipment they choose to use. There must be enough interesting options so that no one item is overwhelmingly popular.

MANY – There should be 3 – 5 materials/items are available for children. Program must have at least 3, with 2 for each age group.

AVAILABLE – Materials are present and exist in the setting.

For Weather Permitting: Means children participate in outdoor activities almost every day, unless there is active precipitation or public announcements that advise people to remain indoors due to weather conditions.

Note: Language refers to “inclement weather” but does not provide any definition of it. Licensing rule is that children (preschool age) go outdoors as long as the “real feel” temperature is 0 degrees or more, with a 5 – 10 degree variance (so if they report that

they go outside if it is 10 degrees or warmer, they are given credit). So it has always scored using the licensing rule as the definition of inclement weather (plus, or course, rain or heat index, etc.). “Weather permitting” and “inclement weather” are interchangeable since each is used in the tools.

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Minimum Indoor Temperature

SACERS-U #1

- 1.2 Space lacks adequate lighting, ventilation, temperature control, or is excessively noisy.
- 3.2 Adequate lighting, ventilation, temperature control, and acceptable noise level.

The ERS tools require that the spaces or rooms used by children must be kept at a comfortable temperature. Wisconsin licensing rules require that the inside temperature may not be less than 67°F in all indoor spaces. “Indoor spaces” refers to all spaces served by the building’s ventilation system (heating and/or air conditioning). Since sensitivity to room temperature varies greatly, the adequacy of the room temperature will be judged based on how comfortable the children and adults appear to be. The temperature will only be checked if the children and/or staff indicate discomfort based on the room temperature.

SACERS-U #8. Furnishings for Gross Motor Activities

- 1.2 Stationary equipment in poor repair or not age appropriate.

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EXPLANATION: Indicator will not be marked off for if children do not use the stationary equipment and are told not to use the stationary equipment during program hours of operation.

SACERS-U #9. Access to host facilities.

- 5.3 Space for conferences and adult group meetings is satisfactory (Ex: dual or shared use does not make scheduling difficult; privacy is assured; adult-sized furniture is available).

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EXPLANATION: Indicator will not be marked “No” if the programs uses space for conferences and adult group meetings outside of host facility for the purpose of conferences and adult group meetings. Privacy must be assured, adult-sized furniture must be available, and scheduling must not be made difficult.

SACERS-U #13. Emergency and Safety Policy

- 5.1 One person with current First Aid certificate including CPR, present at all times in facility.
 - 7.1 All regular staff have current First Aid certificates, including CPR.
- Notes for Clarification from SACERS-U book: + Annual renewal of First Aid is required.

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EXPLANATION: The Wisconsin interpretation will be that the CPR training only needs to be renewed every two years or if the CPR certificate of completion does not have a date specifying the length of time for which it is valid, then CPR training must be renewed every two years. Wisconsin licensing rules require that if the CPR certificate of completion does not have a date specifying the length of time for which it is valid, then CPR training must be renewed every two years. American Heart Association and American Red Cross CPR certification is a two-year renewal. (Revised industry standards).

SACERS-U #14. Safety practices.

1.2 Several hazards in outdoor areas (Ex: equipment unsafe, unfenced play area, hard surface under climbing equipment, glass and trash in yard).

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Unfenced play area: This hazard will not be considered in the indicator as a “YES” for an unfenced play area if the designated play area is used by only school-age children.

EXPLANATION: An unfenced play area for school age groups would be allowed when staff can state that they have made hazards known to the children. “If hazards exist, such as traffic or bodies of water, the boundaries of outdoor play space shall be made known to the children.” Wisconsin Licensing Rules for Group Child Care Centers 251.06(11). Wisconsin Licensing Rules for Family Child Care Centers 250-.06(11).

From December 1 to March 31, if children do not use outdoor equipment with platforms over 18 inches tall, insufficient cushioning will not be cited as a safety hazard when scoring this indicator. Formal Raters will not cite insufficient cushioning as a safety hazard if they have observed the program at times when children are not present because they would be unable to know if the children use the equipment with platforms over 18 inches tall.

Rationale: Accumulated snow does not provide adequate cushioning to protect against head injuries. Additionally, surface types such as loose-fill cushioning (wood mulch and rubber mulch), sand, pea gravel, and poured-in-place cushioning can freeze and lose their shock absorbency in winter/cold weather. Children can be permitted to use other equipment that does not require a cushioned fall surface. Other safety hazards in the gross motor space may still be cited as a safety hazard when scoring this indicator.

Note: For programs with fenced gross motor areas. When snow is cleared/moved and piled next to the fence, it can reduce the effective height of the fence. Licensing requires that fences are 48 inches high. Fence height should be considered when deciding where cleared snow will be placed, so that the required fence height can be maintained. Reduced fence height will be cited as a safety hazard.

1.1 Several hazards indoors. (Ex: medicines and other hazardous substances not locked away, doors without panic bars).

1.2 Several Hazards in outdoor area (Ex: equipment unsafe, hard surface under climbing equipment, glass and trash in yard).

1.1 and/or 1.2 will be scored as “Yes” if any of the following are observed.

- A listed safety hazard that is also a licensing violation
- Items labeled “keep out of reach” (lotions, soap, toothpaste, sunscreen, shaving cream, etc.) may be present in the school-age room as long as school-age children are properly supervised and children are not inappropriately using the materials when the items are frequently used in activities.
- Materials listed below must be locked up and made inaccessible to school-age children. Locked means key lock, magnetic lock, or child-proof safety latches. For example, locked items can be kept in a locked closet, cabinet, or boxes.
 - o Major hazards
 - o Medicines
 - o Pesticides

- o Pure bleach and other cleaning products
- o Aerosols
- o Teachers' purses

1.1 and 1.2 Hazards should be noted as having 2 or more in these indicators.

SACERS - U #17. Meals and Snacks

3.2 Meals and snacks meet USDA requirements Meal Guidelines.

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Explanation: School-age children present after school shall be served a snack. Each meal and snack served shall meet the CACFP guidelines and minimum meal requirements. Meals and snacks will not be available for purchase. Meals and snacks may be provided by parents and shall meet the CACFP guidelines and minimum meal requirements.

SACERS-U #18. Personal hygiene.

1.1 Little or no attention paid to personal hygiene by staff and children (Ex: handwashing or use of hand sanitizer neglected before eating, after toileting or blowing nose).

3.1 Some attention paid to personal hygiene (Ex: some children attempt handwashing or sanitizer use when needed).

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EXPLANATION: Wisconsin Licensing Rules: Disinfecting hand sanitizers may not replace the use of soap and water when washing hands. Staff and children will need to use water and soap or soap and water-based wet wipes. Disinfecting hand sanitizers are not allowed.

SACERS-U #21. Blocks and Construction

7.2 Age-appropriate, functional carpentry tools and soft wood available for construction projects, at least monthly.

WISCONSIN INTERPRETATION

Explanation: Wisconsin Licensing Rules: Programs are not allowed to use power tools or battery operated tools. Programs may use hand tools and should be able to use glue (if it says keep out of reach of children – staff should be directly supervising the use of the material by children).

SACERS-U #33. Interactions between staff and parents.

5.2 Parent conferences possible upon staff or parent request.

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Wisconsin licensing rules will apply the requirement of twice a year for the indicator 5.2.

Notes

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