

WISCONSIN INTERPRETATIONS FOR ERS TOOLS

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 ECERS-R, ITERS-R, FCCERS-R, or SACERS-U tools will be looking at, and also what the intent is of the ECERS-R, ITERS-R, FCCERS-R, or SACERS-U observation.

The Wisconsin Interpretations are given precedence when the Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Wisconsin licensing regulations are determined to be in contrast to each other at the 1 (inadequate), 3 (minimal) or 5 (good) levels of the indicators for the specific items of the ERS, or when further explanation will provide clarification. . The Wisconsin Interpretation Explanation section following the ERS items and specific indicators has the explanations for the Wisconsin Interpretations.

Final determination of any Wisconsin modified scoring must continue to meet all Wisconsin licensing and certification health and safety standards.

Hand washing will be scored as intended by the authors.* Twenty seconds minimal for hand washing. Staff hand washing should occur prior to diapering.

*See Items 9, 10, and 11.

Although a change to the diapering procedures has been made to the Notes for Clarification on the ERSI website, that change will not be implemented for scoring YoungStar formal ratings.

“Keep out of the Reach of Children” will be scored as intended by the authors (requiring that these materials are locked away).

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, of course, rain or heat index, etc.). “Weather permitting” and “inclement weather” are interchangeable since each is used in the tools.

Minimum Indoor Temperature

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.

Over-the-Counter Medications/Sunscreen/Bug Spray/Hand Lotion.

For the purposes of YoungStar, the Wisconsin Licensing Rules will apply to over-the-counter medications as written in the Wisconsin Licensing Rules 250, 251, 252, 202. Wisconsin Licensing Rules: Center staff may give prescription or non-prescription medication, such as pain relievers, teething gels or cough syrup, to a child only under the following conditions:

- a written authorization that includes the child’s name and birthdate,
- name of medication,
- administration instructions,
- medication intervals and
- length of the authorization dated and signed by the parent is on file.

Blanket authorizations that exceed the length of time specified on the label are prohibited. The center may develop its own form or may accept a written authorization from the parent in the form of a note, but either format must include the child’s name and date of birth, the name of the medication and administration instructions, the medication interval and the length of the authorization and it must be signed and dated by the parent. The parent’s authorization may not exceed the time specified on the label of the medication (usually 7 – 10 days). Sunscreen and insect repellent may only be applied upon the written authorization of the parent. All medications shall be stored so that they are not accessible to children. “Keep out of the Reach of Children” will be scored as intended by the authors as locked away.

Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale - Revised	Wisconsin Interpretation Explanation
<p>Item 7 3.3 Parents enter caregiving area as part of daily greeting and departing routines.</p> <p><i>NOTE: FCCERS-R Notes for Clarification: Give credit as long as parents come into any part of the home where children spend any part of the day. Parents cannot be prohibited from going into any of the child care areas. Mark as Yes when children are being transported to and from center, by center transportation (children are not brought to the program by their parents).</i></p>	<p>Score “YES” when children are being transported to and from center, by center transportation (children are not brought to the program by their parents).</p>
<p>Item 8 1.2 Provisions for nap/rest not appropriate. (Ex. Crowded area; sleeping children disturbed; infants put to sleep on stomach; suffocation hazards in cribs). AND 3.2 Healthful provisions for nap/rest. (Ex. Cribs/cots/mats are not crowded ; clean bedding for each child.) Each child who has a nap or rest period shall be provided with an individual bed, cot, sleeping bag, 2-inch thick mat, crib or playpen, which is placed at least 3 feet from the next sleeping child. Cribs or cots may be placed end-to-end if a solid partition separates children and an aisle not less than 3 feet in width is maintained between cribs and cots.</p> <p><i>NOTE: For infants under one year of age, no blankets should be placed in the crib. Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition now requires 3 feet between cots, mats or cribs. When scoring the FCCERS-R, 1.2 will be scored as “NO” and 3.2 will be scored as “YES” as long as cots/mats/cribs are spaced at least 2 feet apart. Solid screens or other barriers, such as crib ends or toy shelves that extend from floor to ceiling are not required, however, there must still be a solid partition separating children. Additionally, 1.2 will be scored “NO” and 3.2 will be scored “YES” as long as blanket use follows the Wisconsin Interpretation.</i></p>	<p>EXPLANATION: Wisconsin Licensing Rules – Each child who has a nap or rest period shall be provided with an individual bed, cot, sleeping bag, 2-inch thick mat, crib or playpen, which is placed at least 2 feet from the next sleeping child. Cribs or cots may be placed end-to-end if a solid partition separates children and an aisle not less than 2 feet in width is maintained between cribs and cots.</p> <p>ADDITIONAL: The licensing rules require a sheet and blanket or a sleeping bag. Each sleep linen (sheets, blankets, etc.) shall be assigned to a child and shall be used only by that child while he/she is enrolled in the facility. Children may share bedding if it has been laundered between uses by the different children. Each mat, cot, or crib mattress shall be covered with the child’s individual sheet for exclusive use by that child. No child shall sleep on a bare uncovered surface. Seasonally appropriate covering such as sheets or blankets that are sufficient to maintain adequate warmth shall be available and shall be used by each child. Cots and sleeping bags and two-inch thick mats, shall be long enough so the child’s head or feet do not rest off the pad. A sleeping bag is a bag that is closed or capable of being closed on three sides. Sleeping bags may be provided by the center or the</p>

parent.

Children under one year of age may not sleep in a crib or playpen that contains soft materials such as sheepskins, pillows, fluffy blankets, bumper pads, or stuffed animals. Sheets or blankets used to cover the child shall be tucked tightly under the mattress and shall be kept away from the child's mouth and nose. If the child pulls the blanket out during naptime, the provider must ensure that the blanket is kept away from the child's mouth and nose. The program could choose to use a sleep sack instead of a separate blanket. If a program uses a sleep sack, this will be considered as a blanket. No violation of the rule would occur (as long as there was a sheet on the crib mattress). If individual/separate sheets and blankets are used, then the blanket must be tucked tightly under the child. The program could choose to use a sleep sack instead of a separate blanket.

(Licensing Rules are applied when a program uses a sleep sack, this will be considered as a blanket. No violations of the licensing rule would occur (as long as there was a sheet on the crib mattress). If the program chooses to go blanket free, not using either a sleeping bag or sleep sack, the program would be in violation of the licensing rule and would be cited for not meeting the requirements. The center cannot go blanket free and meet the licensing rules unless they use sleeping bags, however, sleeping bags are not considered appropriate for children under age one.) If blankets are not used by children under 12 months of age at nap time, by parent's request, a note indicating such will need to be in the children's files in the classroom.

DEFINITION OF CRIB: Wisconsin Interpretations will be followed for criteria for definition of a crib. Wisconsin licensing definition: Crib means a bed for an infant or young child that is enclosed on four sides including playpens and portable cribs. Pack N Plays will meet the criteria for crib.

- Source: If portable cribs and those that are not full size are substituted for regular full-sized cribs, they must be maintained in the condition that meets the ASTM Standard F1822-97 Consumer Safety Specification for Non-Full-Size Baby Cribs. Portable cribs are designed so they may be folded or collapsed, with or without disassembly. Although portable cribs are not designed to withstand the wear and tear of normal full-sized cribs, they may provide more flexibility for programs that vary the number of infants in care from time to time. Standard 5.145, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education, 2nd edition.

Safety standards document that cribs used in facilities should be made of wood, metal, or plastic. Crib slats should be spaced no more than two and three-eighths inches apart, with a firm mattress that is fitted so that no more than two fingers can fit between the mattress and the crib side in the lowest position. The minimum height from the top of the mattress to the top of the crib rail should be

	<p>twenty inches in the highest position. Cribs with drop sides should not be used. The crib should not have corner post extensions (over one-sixteenth inch). The crib should have not cutout openings in the headboard or footboard structure in which a child’s head could become entrapped. The mattress support system should not be easily dislodged from any point of the crib by an upward force from underneath the crib. All cribs should meet the STM F1169-10a Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Full-Size Baby Cribs, F406-10b Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Non-Full-Size Baby Cribs/Play Yards, or the CPSC 16 CFR 1219, 1220, and 1500 – Safety Standards for Full-Size Baby Cribs and Non-Full-Size Baby Cribs; Final Rule.</p> <p>EXPLANATION : The Consumer Product Safety Commission requires that a full-size crib will have the interior dimensions of no greater than 27 3/8” to 28 5/8” (28 ± 5/8 inches) (71 ± 1.6 centimeters) in width x 52 3/8 ± 5/8 inches (133 ± 1.6 centimeters) in length. The mattress used in a full-size crib must be at least 27 ¼ inches wide x 51 ¼ inches in length with a thickness not exceeding 6 inches. The measurement of the height of the mattress and the outside edge of the mattress to the inside of the crib side will be conducted with a tape measure and not the two-finger measurement as indicated in the ERS. The measurement of the distance from the inside edge at the side of the crib to the mattress will not exceed 1 ½” or a combined total of 1 1/2” with both sides measured (crib mattress may have moved to one side).</p> <p>Cribs/Mattresses. Since cribs with side that drop down are no longer considered safe for children, this will be considered in both the Hap item and Safety item. See Item 8 and Item 12.</p>
<p>Item 8. Nap/rest. 1.3 Little or no supervision provided or supervision is harsh (Ex. Sleeping infant not within sight) AND 3.3 Sufficient supervision provided for children during nap.</p>	<p>When scoring the FCCERS-R, 1.3 will be scored as “NO” and 3.3 will be scored as “YES” for sufficient supervision given to infants during nap by checking through sight and sound every 15 minutes with working monitors in place. Sufficient supervision provided for older children during nap.</p>
<p>Item 9. Meals/snacks. 1.3 Basic sanitary procedures usually neglected. 3.3 Basic sanitary procedures maintained at least half of the time. 5.3 Basic sanitary procedures usually practiced.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Item 10. Toileting/diapering. 1.3 Hand washing often neglected by provider or children after diapering/toileting. 3.3 Provider and children usually wash hands after diapering/toileting.</p> <p><i>NOTE: The goal of item 10 (page 26) Toileting/diapering is to "minimize the spread of germs to the provider or child's hands, the diapering surface, containers of supplies, cabinet doors, or any other surface the children and provider might touch." The quality indicators identified within this subscale begin with the indicator 1.1: Sanitary conditions of area</i></p>	<p>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.</p>

<p>are not usually maintained. (Ex. Toilet/sinks dirty; diapering table/potty chairs not sanitized after each use, toilets rarely flushed).</p> <p>Within the Notes for Clarification (page 27) - in the FCCERS-R tool 1.1 indicates " If the same sink is used by either children or adults for both diapering/toileting and food-related routines (including teeth brushing) or for other purposes (to wash toys/other classroom equipment; after wiping nose), it must be sanitized by spraying sink and faucets with a bleach solution after diapering/toileting use. As an exception to this rule, in order to avoid requiring children to wash hands in quick succession between toileting and being fed, the following applies: if children use toilet, wash hands and then immediately sit down for meal/snack, contamination of children's hands at toileting sink must be minimized by having children/adults turn off faucet with paper towel.</p> <p>Further additional information in the All About ITERS-R page 108 indicates: If the same sink is used by either children or adults for both diapering/toileting and food-related routines (including tooth brushing) or for other purposes (for example, to wash toys or other classroom equipment), it must be sanitized after diaper/toileting use by spraying the sinks and faucets with a bleach solution. All use of the sink for one purpose can be completed before the sink needs to be sanitized for another use.</p> <p>3.1 Sanitary conditions are maintained at least half of the time (Ex. if 1 sink is used, it is sanitized between diapering/toileting and food-related use; potty chairs are emptied after each use and sanitized in a separate sink used only for that purpose).*</p> <p><i>*NOTES for CLARIFICATION: The following measures are essential to cut down on the spread of gastro-intestinal illness and should be considered when scoring this item: Physical separate of diapering area from food preparation area, including separate sinks for each area.</i></p>	<p>EXPLANATION: Wisconsin Licensing Rules 251.09(b)(c)11 will need to be followed which states "Each self-contained classroom or area serving infants or toddlers who are diapered shall have a sink with hot and cold running water which is not used for food preparation or dishwashing within the room area. There shall be a solid barrier between the diapering area and any food preparation area.</p>
<p>Item 11. Health practices.</p> <p>1.1 Provider does not usually act to cut down on the spread of germs.</p> <p>3.1 Provider acts to cut down on the spread of germs at least half of the time.</p> <p>5.1 Provider usually acts to cut down on the spread of germs.</p> <p>7.1 Children encouraged to manage health practices independently.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Item 12. Safety practices.</p> <p>1.2 Four or more hazards that could result in serious injury outdoors. When scoring FCCERS-R 1.2, NA (Not Applicable) is permitted.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>3.1 No more than 3 safety hazards that could result in serious injury indoors and outdoors, combined. When scoring FCCERS-R 3.2, NA (Not applicable) is permitted.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>5.1 No safety hazards that could cause serious injury indoors or outdoors. When scoring FCCERS-R 5.1, NA (Not applicable) is permitted.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>5.2 Provider usually anticipates and takes action to eliminate safety hazards (Ex. removes toys under climbing equipment; closes gate or locks dangerous areas to keep children in safe space; wipes up spills to prevent falls). When scoring FCCERS-R 5.2, NA (Not Applicable) is permitted.</p>	<p>EXPLANATION: 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

	fence height can be maintained. Reduced fence height will be cited as a safety hazard.
<p>Item 12. Safety practices. 5.3 Home as passed official fire inspection, and emergency evacuation procedures are practiced monthly with children.</p>	<p>EXPLANATION: There are two parts to this indicator and this will be scored. However, the provider may present documentation that an inspection was requested and refused because the Fire Marshall/Chief does not provide this service for the community in which the program is located. The Fire Marshall/Chief must provide a signed statement or an email that indicates the above. The portion of the indicator will be scored as met.</p>
<p>Item 26. Active physical play. 1.2 Space (outdoor or indoor) used for active physical play is generally very dangerous. (Ex. access requires long walk on busy street; unfenced area; insufficient cushioning under majority of climbing equipment). When scoring FCCERS-R 1.2, NA (Not applicable) is permitted. AND 3.2 Spaces for active physical play are generally safe (Ex. sufficient cushioning under climbing equipment; fenced in outdoor area). When scoring FCCERS-R 3.2, NA (Not applicable) is permitted. AND 5.4 All space and equipment (outdoor and/or indoor) are safe and appropriate for children who are allowed to use them. When scoring FCCERS-R 5.4, NA (Not applicable) is permitted.</p>	<p>EXPLANATION: 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Additional Items: <u>Safety Practices for Glass in the Home</u> A family child care program may have glass or stoneware lamps with light bulbs, TV/video entertainment centers, curio cabinets, sliding glass shower doors, patio doors, mirrors (wall and floor to higher) and choose to serve children meals with stoneware or glassware on glass tabletops. Items other than the previous examples will need to be placed out of reach back and/or away from children’s reach (ex. glass figurines, vases). In these environments, providers must have adequate supervision to protect children’s safety indoors and outdoors. The provider should anticipate and take action to eliminate safety hazards. Children (older infants) need to be seen as frequently using all the furnishings accessible to them to pull up (being able to withstand toppling, shaking, or collapsing) in order to be counted as a safety hazard. Children in a family care environment have the opportunity to learn about safety and being safe in a home with a provider that is using adequate supervision to protect children’s safety.</p>	

INFANT/TODDLER ENVIRONMENT RATING SCALE - REVISED	WISCONSIN INTERPRETATION EXPLANATION
<p>Item 6. Greeting/departing.</p> <p>1.3 At greeting/departing times, parents rarely enter area used for child’s care. NA permitted.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>3.3 Parents bring child into caregiving area as part of daily routine. NA permitted.</p> <p><i>NOTE: ITERS-R NOTES FOR CLARIFICATION: NA permitted is allowed in programs where the children are regularly transported to and from the center, by center transportation (children are not brought to the program by their parents).</i></p>	<p>Score “YES” when children are being transported to and from center, by center transportation (children are not brought to the program by their parents).</p>
<p>Item 7. Meals/snacks.</p> <p>1.3 Basic sanitary procedures usually neglected.</p> <p>3.3 Basic sanitary procedures maintained at least half of the time.</p> <p>5.3 Basic sanitary procedures usually practiced, with only a few lapses.</p> <p>5.1 Children fed separately or in very small groups.</p> <p><i>NOTE: The number of children in very small groups will depend on the age and abilities of the children. Younger infants should be fed individually. For older infants, a very small group would be no more than 2 – 3 children. For toddlers and twos, a small group is not more than 6 children. In determining whether the group is appropriately small, observe to find out if the group size allows the positive interaction and support the children would receive in a good setting. However, do not confuse the effects of group size with other issues that might affect whether children’s needs are being met, such as staff characteristics or number of staff present. Infants and toddlers should never be fed in a setting, such as a lunch room, where many groups of children come together to eat.</i></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>EXPLANATION: Wisconsin Licensing Rules (251.07(5)(b)10 states that the staff shall sit at the table with children during mealtime. After providing any assistance necessary to the children, staff assigned to the group of children should site with children during meals. Staff working with infants and young toddlers who must be fed or given a great deal of assistance with self-feeding are not required to sit with the children, while they are attending to the needs of individual children. Meals shall be served with time allowed for socialization.</p> <p>Credit can be given for this indicator if infants and toddlers are fed in a group setting, such as a lunch room/cafeteria or dining area and all other items of this indicator are met (adequate and appropriate supervision requiring that a staff member is attentive and within an arm’s reach of any child who is eating/drinking). This allows for “Family Style Dining” in a large group setting. Programs must follow licensing rule, DCF 251.-5 (4)(d), for maintaining staff-to-child ratios in settings where the area of the center is reserved exclusively for eating at designated times. Maximum group size does not apply to areas of the center reserved exclusively for eating.</p>
<p>Item 8. Nap.</p> <p>1.1 Provisions for nap/rest not appropriate. (Ex. too early or too late; crowded area; sleeping children disturbed by loud noise, bright lights, or other children ; young infants put to sleep on stomach; soft pillows used with infants; infant’s head covered).</p> <p>AND</p> <p>3.2 Healthful provisions for nap/rest. (Ex. Cribs/cots/mats at least 36 inches apart unless separated by a solid barrier; clean bedding for each child.)</p> <p><i>NOTE: ITERS-R ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR CLARIFICATION: For infants under one year of age, no blankets</i></p>	<p>EXPLANATION: Wisconsin Licensing Rules – Each child who has a nap or rest period shall be provided with an individual bed, cot, sleeping bag, 2-inch thick mat, crib or playpen, which is placed at least 2 feet from the next sleeping child. Cribs or cots must have a solid partition separating children and an aisle not less than 2 feet in width is maintained between cribs and cots. Cribs or cots may be placed end-to-end if a solid partition separates children (does not need to be extended from floor to ceiling) and an aisle not less than 2 feet in width is maintained between cribs and cots.</p>

should be placed in the crib. *Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition now requires 3 feet between cots, mats or cribs.*
When scoring the ITERS-R, 1.1 will be scored as "NO" and 3.2 will be scored as "YES" as long as cots/mats/cribs are spaced at least 2 feet apart. Solid screens or other barriers, such as crib ends or toy shelves that extend from floor to ceiling are not required, however, there must still be a solid partition separating children. Additionally, 1.1 will be scored "NO" and 3.2 will be scored "YES" as long as blanket use follows the Wisconsin Interpretation.

The licensing rules require a sheet and blanket or a sleeping bag. Each sleep linen (sheets, blankets, etc.) shall be assigned to a child and shall be used only by that child while he/she is enrolled in the facility. Children may share bedding if it has been laundered between uses by the different children. Each mat, cot, or crib mattress shall be covered with the child's individual sheet for exclusive use by that child. No child shall sleep on a bare uncovered surface. Seasonally appropriate covering such as sheets or blankets that are sufficient to maintain adequate warmth shall be available and shall be used by each child. Cots and sleeping bags and two-inch thick mats, shall be long enough so the child's head or feet do not rest off the pad. A sleeping bag is a bag that is closed or capable of being closed on three sides. Sleeping bags may be provided by the center or the parent. If blankets are not used by children under 12 months of age at nap time, by parent's request, a note indicating such will need to be in the children's files in the classroom.

Children under one year of age may not sleep in a crib or playpen that contains soft materials such as sheepskins, pillows, fluffy blankets, bumper pads, or stuffed animals. Sheets or blankets used to cover the child shall be tucked tightly under the mattress and shall be kept away from the child's mouth and nose. If the child pulls the blanket out during naptime, the provider must ensure that the blanket is kept away from the child's mouth and nose. The program could choose to use a sleep sack instead of a separate blanket.

(Licensing Rules are applied when a program uses a sleep sack, this will be considered as a blanket. No violations of the licensing rule would occur (as long as there was a sheet on the crib mattress). If the program chooses to go blanket free, not using either a sleeping bag or sleep sack, the program would be in violation of the licensing rule and would be cited for not meeting the requirements. The center cannot go blanket free and meet the licensing rules unless they use sleeping bags, however, sleeping bags are not considered appropriate for children under age one.)

DEFINITION OF CRIB: Wisconsin licensing definition: Crib means a bed for an infant or young child that is enclosed on four sides including playpens and portable cribs. Pack N Plays will meet the criteria for crib.

- Source: If portable cribs and those that are not full size are substituted for regular full-sized cribs, they must be maintained in the condition that meets the ASTM Standard F1822-97 Consumer Safety Specification for Non-Full-Size Baby Cribs. Portable cribs are designed so they may be folded or collapsed, with or without disassembly. Although portable cribs are not designed to withstand the wear and tear of normal full-sized cribs, they may provide more flexibility for programs that vary the number of infants in care from time to time. Standard 5.145, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education, 2nd edition.

Safety standards document that cribs used in facilities should be made of wood,

metal, or plastic. Crib slats should be spaced no more than two and three-eighths inches apart, with a firm mattress that is fitted so that no more than two fingers can fit between the mattress and the crib side in the lowest position. The minimum height from the top of the mattress to the top of the crib rail should be twenty inches in the highest position. Cribs with drop sides should not be used. The crib should not have corner post extensions (over one-sixteenth inch). The crib should have not cutout openings in the headboard or footboard structure in which a child's head could become entrapped. The mattress support system should not be easily dislodged from any point of the crib by an upward force from underneath the crib. All cribs should meet the STM F1169-10a Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Full-Size Baby Cribs, F406-10b Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Non-Full-Size Baby Cribs/Play Yards, or the CPSC 16 CFR 1219, 1220, and 1500 – Safety Standards for Full-Size Baby Cribs and Non-Full-Size Baby Cribs; Final Rule.

EXPLANATION: The Consumer Product Safety Commission requires that a full-size crib will have the interior dimensions of no greater than 27 3/8" to 28 5/8" (28 ± 5/8 inches) (71 ± 1.6 centimeters) in width x 52 3/8 ± 5/8 inches (133 ± 1.6 centimeters) in length. The mattress used in a full-size crib must be at least 27 ¼ inches wide x 51 ¼ inches in length with a thickness not exceeding 6 inches. The measurement of the height of the mattress and the outside edge of the mattress to the inside of the crib side will be conducted with a tape measure and not the two-finger measurement as indicated in the ERS. The measurement of the distance from the inside edge at the side of the crib to the mattress will not exceed 1 ½" or a combined total of 1 ½" with both sides measured (crib mattress may have moved to one side).

Cribs/Mattresses. Since cribs with sides that drop down are no longer considered safe for children, this will be considered in both the Nap item and Safety item.

Item 9. Toileting/diapering.

- 1.3 Hand washing often neglected for staff or children after diapering/toileting.
- 3.3 Staff and children usually was hands after diapering/toileting.

NOTE: The goal of the Item 9 (page 24) Toileting/diapering is to "minimize the spread of germs in the early childhood classroom." (All About ITERS-R, page 107). The quality indicators identified within this item begin with the indicator 1.1: Sanitary conditions of area are rarely maintained. (Ex. Toilet/sinks dirty; diapering table/potty chairs not sanitized after each use, toilets rarely flushed).

Within the Notes for Clarification (page 25) - in the ITERS-R tool 1.1 indicates " If the same sink must be used for more than diapering/toileting, faucet handles and sink should be sanitized with a bleach solution after diapering/toileting use". As an exception to this rule, in order to avoid requiring children to wash hands in quick succession between toileting and being fed, the following applies: if children use toilet, wash hands and then immediately sit down for meal/snack, contamination of children's hands at toileting sink must be minimized by having children/adults turn off faucet with paper towel.

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.

<p><i>Further additional information in the All About ITERS-R page 108 indicates: If the same sink is used by either children or adults for both diapering/toileting and food-related routines (including brushing teeth) or for other purposes (for example, to wash toys or other classroom equipment), it must be sanitized after diaper/toileting use by spraying the sinks and faucets with a bleach solution. All use of the sink for one purpose can be completed before the sink needs to be sanitized for another use.</i></p> <p>3.1 Sanitary conditions are maintained at least half of the time (Ex. if 1 sink is used, it is sanitized between diapering/toileting and food-related use; potty chairs are emptied after each use and sanitized in a separate sink used only for that purpose).*</p> <p><i>*NOTES for CLARIFICATION: The following measures are essential to cut down on the spread of gastro-intestinal illness and should be considered when scoring this item: Physical separate of diapering area from food preparation area, including separate sinks for each area.</i></p>	<p>EXPLANATION: Wisconsin Licensing Rules 251.09(b)(c)11 will need to be followed which states “Each self-contained classroom or area serving infants or toddlers who are diapered shall have a sink with hot and cold running water which is not used for food preparation or dishwashing within the room area. There shall be a solid barrier between the diapering area and any food preparation area.</p>
<p>Item 10. Health practices.</p> <p>1.1 Staff do not usually act to cut down on the spread of germs.</p> <p>3.2 Hands of children and staff washed at least 75% of the time when needed to protect health.</p> <p>5.2 Hands of children and staff consistently washing to protect health.</p> <p>7.1 Children encouraged to manage health practices independently.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Item 11. Safety practices.</p> <p>1.2 Four or more hazards that could result in serious injury outdoors. When scoring ITERS-R 1.2, NA (Not applicable) is permitted.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>3.1 No more than 3 safety hazards that could result in serious injury indoors and outdoors, combined. When scoring ITERS-R 3.1, NA (Not applicable) is permitted.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>5.1 No safety hazards that could cause serious injury indoors or outdoors. When scoring ITERS-R 5.1, NA (Not applicable) is permitted.</p>	<p>EXPLANATION: 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Item 16. Active physical play.</p> <p>1.1 No appropriate outdoor or indoor space used regularly for active physical play. When scoring ITERS-R 1.1, NA (Not applicable) is permitted.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>5.5 All space and equipment is appropriate for children. When scoring ITERS-R 5.5, NA (Not applicable) is permitted.</p>	<p>EXPLANATION: 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.</p>

AND

7.1 Outdoor space has 2 or more types of surfaces permitting different types of play (ex. grass, outdoor carpet, rubber cushioning surface, decking).

When scoring ITERS-R 7.1, NA (Not applicable) is permitted.

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.

Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale - Revised	Wisconsin Interpretation Explanation
<p>Item 7. Space for gross motor play. 1.2 Gross motor space is very dangerous (Ex. Access requires long walk on busy street; same space used for play and parking lot; unfenced area for preschoolers). When scoring ECERS-R 1.2, NA (Not applicable) is permitted.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>3.2 Gross motor space is generally safe. (Ex. Sufficient cushioning under climbing equipment; fenced in outdoor area). When scoring ECERS-R 3.2, NA (Not applicable) is permitted.</p>	<p>EXPLANATION: 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Item 9. Greeting/departing. 1.3 Parents are not allowed to bring children into the classroom. 3.3 Parents allowed to bring children into the classroom.</p> <p><i>NOTE: This indicator does NOT require that all parents bring their children into the classroom, but that they are allowed to do so any time they wish. There can be nothing preventing this practice. ECERS-R NOTES FOR CLARIFICATION: NA permitted is allowed if children are not brought to the program by their parents. 1.3 and 3.3 can be answered with asking the question of "Could you describe what happens each day when the children and parents arrive and leave?"</i></p>	<p>Score "YES" when children are being transported to and from center, by center transportation (children are not brought to the program by their parents).</p>
<p>Item 9. Greeting/departing. 5.3 Parents greeted warmly by staff. When scoring ECERS-R 5.3, NA (Not applicable) is permitted.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>7.3 Staff uses greeting and departure as information sharing time with parents. When scoring ECERS-R 7.3, NA (Not applicable) is permitted.</p> <p><i>NOTE: ECERS-R NOTES FOR CLARIFICATION: NA permitted is allowed if children are not brought to the program by their parents. This can be answered with asking the question of "Could you describe what happens each day when the children and parents arrive and leave?" Observation of greeting and departure of each child in the class is not required to score the items. Scores can be based on greetings and or departures observed and information generalized to come to a scoring decision.</i></p>	<p>Score "YES" when children are being transported to and from center, by center transportation (children are not brought to the program by their parents).</p>

<p>Item 10. Meals/snacks. 1.3 Sanitary conditions not usually maintained. 3.3 Sanitary conditions usually maintained.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Item 11. Nap. 1.2 Nap/rest provisions unsanitary (Ex. Crowded area, dirty sheets, different children use same bedding). AND 3.2 Healthful provisions for nap/rest. (Ex. Area not crowded, clean bedding). <i>NOTE: (Cots/mats are at least 18 inches apart, unless separated by a solid barrier.)</i></p>	<p>EXPLANATION: Wisconsin Licensing Rules – Each child who has a nap or rest period shall be provided with an individual bed, cot, sleeping bag, 2-inch thick mat, crib or playpen, which is placed at least 2 feet from the next sleeping child. Cribs or cots must have a solid partition separating children and an aisle not less than 2 feet in width is maintained between cribs and cots. Cribs or cots may be placed end-to-end if a solid partition separates children (does not need to be extended from floor to ceiling) and an aisle not less than 2 feet in width is maintained between cribs and cots. Solid screens or other barriers, such as crib ends or toy shelves that extend from floor to ceiling are not required, however, there must still be a solid partition separating children. When scoring the ECERS-R, 1.2 will be scored as NO. 3.2 will be scored as YES.</p>
<p>Item 12. Toileting/diapering. 1.3 Hand washing often neglected by staff or children after toileting/diapering. 3.3 Staff and children wash hands most of the time after toileting. <i>NOTE: In this case the goal of the item 12 (page 28) Toileting/diapering is to "minimize the spread of germs in the early childhood classroom." (All About ECERS-R, page 111).</i> <i>Toileting/diapering is to "minimize the spread of germs in the early childhood classroom." (All About ECERS-R, page 111).</i> <i>The quality indicators identified within this item begin with the indicator 1.1: Sanitary conditions of area are not maintained (Ex. Toilet/sinks dirty; diapering table/potty chairs not sanitized after each use, toilets rarely flushed).</i> <i>Within the Notes for Clarification (page 29) - in the ECERS-R tool 1.1 indicates " If the same sink is used by either children or adults for both diapering/toileting and food-related routines (including tooth brushing) or for other purposes (to wash toys/other classroom equipment; after wiping nose), it must be sanitized by spraying sink and faucets with a bleach solution after diapering/toileting use. As an exception to this rule, in order to avoid requiring children to wash hands in quick succession between toileting and being fed, the following applies: if children use toilet, wash hands and then immediately sit down for meal/snack, contamination of children's hands at toileting sink must be minimized by having children/adults turn off faucet with paper towel.</i> <i>Further additional information in the All About ECERS-R page 112 indicates: If the same sink is used by either children or adults for both diapering/toileting and food-related routines (including brushing teeth) or for other purposes (for example, to wash toys or other classroom equipment), it must be sanitized after diaper/toileting use by spraying the sinks and faucets with a bleach solution. All use of the sink for one purpose can be completed before the sink needs to be sanitized for another use.</i></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Item 13. Health practices. 1.1 Staff usually do not act to cut down on the spread of germs. 3.1 Adequate hand washing by staff and children takes place after wiping noses, after handling animals, or when otherwise soiled. 7.1 Children taught to manage health practices independently.</p>	<p>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.</p>

Item 14. Safety practices.

1.2 Several hazards that could result in serious injury outdoors.
When scoring ECERS-R 1.2, NA (not applicable) is permitted.

AND

3.1 No major safety hazards indoors or outdoors.
When scoring ECERS-R 3.1, NA (Not applicable) is permitted.

EXPLANATION: 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.

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.

School-Age Child Care Environment Rating Scale - Updated	Wisconsin Interpretations
<p>Item 8. Furnishings for Gross Motor Activities 1.2 Stationary equipment in poor repair or not age appropriate.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Item 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).</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Item 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.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Notes for Clarification from SACERS-U book: + Annual renewal of First Aid is required.</i></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p>
<p>Item 14. Safety practices. 1.1 Several hazards indoors. (Ex: medicines and other hazardous substances not locked away, doors without panic bars). 1.2 Several hazards in outdoor areas (Ex: equipment unsafe, unfenced play area, hard surface under climbing equipment, glass and trash in yard).</p> <p>NOTE: 1.1 and/or 1.2 will be scored as “Yes” if any of the following are observed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A listed safety hazard that is also a licensing violation • Items labeled “keep out of reach” (lotions, soap, toothpaste, sunscreen, shaving cream, etc.) <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Major hazards o Medicines o Pesticides o Pure bleach and other cleaning products 	<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Note: For programs with fenced gross motor areas. When snow is cleared/moved</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Aerosols o Teachers' purses <p>1.1 and 1.2 Hazards should be noted as having 2 or more in these indicators.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Item 17. Meals and Snacks 3.2 Meals and snacks meet USDA requirements Meal Guidelines.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Item 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).</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Item 21. Blocks and Construction 7.2 Age-appropriate, functional carpentry tools and soft wood available for construction projects, at least monthly.</p>	<p>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).</p>
<p>Item 33. Interactions between staff and parents. 5.2 Parent conferences possible upon staff or parent request.</p>	<p>Wisconsin licensing rules will apply the requirement of twice a year for the indicator 5.2.</p>

REFERENCE:

*Environment Rating Scale Institute. Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Dr. Thelma Harms, Dr. Debbie Cryer, Dr. Richard Clifford.

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