

2025 ITERS-3 Explanation of terms, Disinfecting sinks between uses for different purposes – According to Caring for Our Children (CFOC), to avoid the spread of disease, separate sinks should be used for food preparation/service, another should be used for toileting/diapering and one more should be used for all other purposes. However, it is unusual for early childhood program classrooms to be equipped with multiple sinks for different uses. New information from CFOC shows that touching sink faucets after handwashing does not add to a substantial amount of contamination. Therefore, it is no longer required that faucets be turned off with a paper towel. In addition, if sinks are observed to be used for multiple purposes, and only the faucets are touched during handwashing (e.g. no food washed in sink, no touching sink surfaces occurs), it is no longer necessary to disinfect the sinks between different uses, except when soiled or during regular cleaning. Therefore, if a shared sink is used without disinfecting, consider the relative contamination that is observed, and if minimal, consider this a minor problem when scoring the handwashing/sanitation indicators.

2025 ITERS-3 (page 19) Item #2 Furnishings for care, play, and learning, 3.1, 5.1 – If a smaller diapering table or other diapering surface is used, but it is not long enough and/or wide enough to accommodate the child's whole body, give credit for 3.1, but not 5.1.

2025 ITERS-3 (page 29) Item #7 Health practices – Replace the original note for 1.3, 3.3, 5.3 with the following:
1.3, 3.3., 5.3 Nap/rest may not be observed within the 3-hour observation. The observer may decide to remain after the observation to see how the sleeping equipment is placed but this is not required. Score these indicators NA if no nap evidence is observed, such as cots or bedding storage, placement of cots/cribs. If many major sanitary problems are observed, score 1.3 Yes, even if placement of sleeping equipment is not seen. In addition, score 3.3 No if any major problem is observed (e.g. substantial touching of children's bedding), even if crib/cot/mat placement is not seen. Score indicator 5.3 NA if placement of sleeping equipment is not observed unless there are other sanitary nap-related issues that require a score of No. To score 3.3 and 5.3 Yes, placement of sleeping equipment must be observed.

2025 ITERS-3 (page 29) Item #7 Health practices – Replace the original note for 3.4, 5.4 with the following:
Score NA if the children show no signs of having sleep/rest problems during the observation and nap/rest is not observed during the 3-hour observation. However, if evidence is observed of children being tired and not having sleep needs met, or if children are not tired when expected to sleep, score as evidence requires.

2025 ITERS-3 (page 41) Item #13 Staff use of books with children, 5.4 – This indicator requires that staff read a complete book, unless the child(ren) clearly lose interest before the book is finished. The observed book reading should be long enough to be a meaningful and engaging experience for child(ren) to be counted. In addition, singing the text of a book or reading picture labels in picture-word books can be counted as reading the text in a book.

2025 ITERS-3 (page 43) Item #14 Encouraging children's use of books, 7.3 – To give credit, there should be at least 3 books that have been obviously added recently.

2025 ITERS-3 (page 45) Item #15 Fine motor, 3.4 – To give credit, two examples of materials on different levels of difficulty, suitable for the children in the group, must be observed.

2025 ITERS-3 (page 47) Item #16 Art, 1.1 – Score "Yes" if children 18 months and older are not observed using accessible materials and staff do not encourage use.

2025 ITERS-3 (page 47) Item #16 Art, 1.2 – Remove the following note: Score "Yes" if children 18 months and older are not observed using accessible materials and staff do not encourage use.

2025 ITERS-3 (page 47) Item #16 Art, 1.3 – Remove the following note: Score "Yes" if children 18 months and older are not observed using accessible materials and staff do not encourage use.

2025 ITERS-3 (page 49) Item #17 Music and movement, 5.1 – If more than 10 children are allowed to attend at one time, then there must be at least one instrument per child. In addition, to give credit for this indicator, the required number of instruments cannot all be the same type.

2025 ITERS-3 (page 63) Item #24 Gross motor, 5.2 – To give credit for this indicator, there can be no major hazards in the space used by children and no more than 4 minor hazards.

2025 ITERS-3 (page 65) Item #25 Supervision of gross motor play, 7.1 – Vigorous activity requires that children are very active, although this will vary depending on children's ages and abilities. To give credit, staff should initiate this type of very active play across all ages and abilities observed.

2025 ITERS-3 (page 73) Item, #29 Providing physical warmth and touch, 5.3 – To score Yes, staff must encourage gentle touch almost any time that children are aggressive with one another, and to do this, they must physically demonstrate gentle touching.