

2025 ECERS-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 ECERS-3 (page 27) Item #7 Gross motor equipment, 1.2, 3.2, 5.2, 7.2 – When evaluating the appropriateness/safety of equipment, consider all regularly used outdoor equipment, even if not accessible during the observation.

2025 ECERS-3 (page 29) Item #8 Meals/snacks – Remove “and 1.2” from the following additional note: “If a mealtime is not observed during the 3 hours, indicator 1.1 should be scored “yes.” All other indicators related to nutrition, interactions, and schedule should be scored “no.” Score indicators related to sanitation based on other observed sanitary practices if no sanitary practices related to meals take place during the 3-hour observation.

2025 ECERS-3 (page 41) Item #14 Staff use of books with children, 3.1, 5.1 – To give credit for 3.1, one book must be read from beginning to end, unless staff reads a complete story within a book with several stories. The book or story read can be very short, but it must be completed in its entirety to score Yes. 5.1 requires that two books/stories are read in their entirety. In addition, singing the text of a book counts as reading.

2025 ECERS-3 (page 57) Item #22 Nature/science, 5.1 – Sand/water experiences do not have to be located in the nature/science interest center in order to count among the 15 required materials. However, all other required materials must be included in the center, including at least one living thing. There may be plants/animals in other areas in the room or outdoors, but to be counted in the required 15 materials, they must be present in the nature/science center for children to observe closely or care for.

2025 ECERS-3 (page 63) Item #25 Understanding written numbers, 7.1 – The appropriate materials are the types of play materials required in 5.1. Since these are play materials, displayed items such as number posters or signs in centers telling how many children can play there, are not considered here. However, if children can actually play with or manipulate a displayed item, it can be considered here (e.g. displayed magnetic board showing different quantities of objects with magnetic print numbers to match or count.)