

**2025 FCCERS-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 FCCERS-3 (page 29) Item #7 Health practices** – Replace the original note for 3.3, 5.3 with the following:

**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 FCCERS-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 FCCERS-3 (page 41) Item #13 Provider use of books with children, 5.1** – This indicator requires that the provider reads 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. Signing the text of a book can count as “reading aloud.” In addition, reading picture labels in picture-word books can be counted as “reading aloud” to infants and toddlers.