

FCC Environment Checklist

Use this checklist to assess your own environment.

For items you haven't checked, create an action plan for your environment.

- Children can use what they can reach most of the time
- Furniture and objects are arranged so the provider seldom has to say “no” to children
- There is sufficient space to allow children to carry out activities without being cramped
- There is a comfortable and cozy place
- Older children have a place to use materials without interference from younger children (Ex.: Preschoolers can play with small manipulatives out of reach of toddlers)
- Children who cannot walk have appropriate space to crawl, to stand up, or to walk holding on to sturdy, low furniture as needed (cruise)
- There is an active play area with open space for movement
- There is a place for each child's personal belongings
- There are enough toys and materials, homemade or purchased, to engage all children in developmentally appropriate ways
- Materials and equipment have been adapted as needed to meet children's individual needs
- Children help themselves to some of the materials and know where to put them away
- Separate containers are provided for different kinds of materials
- Indoor equipment and materials are in good repair and safe for the children who use them
- Heavy furniture and equipment is stable or securely anchored
- Toys and surfaces are clean at the beginning of the day and toys that are mouthed by children are not used until sanitized
- Outdoor equipment and materials are in good repair and safe for children who use them

Action Plan:

This checklist is based upon the NAFCC Accreditation Benchmarks for Environments.

The NAFCC Accreditation Benchmarks can be accessed here:

<https://nafcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Benchmarks-2020-English.pdf>.

Full NAFCC accreditation information can be found here: <https://nafcc.org/accreditation/>