

H. Physical Environment

GOAL: *The indoor and outdoor physical environment fosters optimal growth and development through opportunities for exploration and learning..*

RATIONALE: *The physical environment affects the behavior and development of the people, both children and adults, who live and work in it. The quality of the physical space and materials provided affects the level of involvement of the children and the quality of interaction between adults and children. The amount, arrangement, and use of space, both indoors and outdoors, are to be evaluated regularly.*

H-1 - The indoor and outdoor environments have appropriate amounts of space.	EVALUATION			STATUS			NEED	
	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Strength	Goal for the Year	Emerging	In Place	Technical Assistance	Resource

Notes/Comments:

H-1a. - There is enough usable space indoors so children are not crowded.	EVALUATION			STATUS			NEED	
	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Strength	Goal for the Year	Emerging	In Place	Technical Assistance	Resource

Notes/Comments:

H-1b - There is enough usable space for outdoor play for each age group.	EVALUATION			STATUS			NEED	
	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Strength	Goal for the Year	Emerging	In Place	Technical Assistance	Resource

Notes/Comments:

H-1c - When necessary, physical space has been modified to meet the needs of individual children (refer to the Americans With Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973).	EVALUATION			STATUS			NEED	
	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Strength	Goal for the Year	Emerging	In Place	Technical Assistance	Resource

Notes/Comments:

H-2 - Space is arranged to accommodate children individually, in small groups and in a large group.	EVALUATION			STATUS			NEED	
	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Strength	Goal for the Year	Emerging	In Place	Technical Assistance	Resource

* There are clear pathways for children to move from one area to another without disturbing activities.

* Areas are organized for easy supervision by staff.								
Notes/Comments:								
H-3 - Space is arranged to facilitate a variety of activities for each age group.	EVALUATION			STATUS			NEED	
	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Strength	Goal for the Year	Emerging	In Place	Technical Assistance	Resource
* Non-walkers are provided with open space for crawling and protected space for play.								
* Toddlers and preschoolers have space arranged for a variety of individual and small group activities including block building, dramatic play, art, music, science, math manipulatives, and quiet book reading.								
* Sand and water play and woodworking are available on regular occasions.								
* Areas are labeled so that children can easily understand rules for the area (i.e., number of children, type of materials, clean-up procedures, etc.)								
Notes/Comments:								
H-4 - A variety of developmentally and age-appropriate materials and equipment are available for children indoors and outdoors.	EVALUATION			STATUS			NEED	
	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Strength	Goal for the Year	Emerging	In Place	Technical Assistance	Resource
* Materials are plentiful and diverse to allow children many choices for extending an activity or elaborating a product.								
* Materials are durable and in good repair.								
* Materials are organized consistently on low, open shelves to encourage independent use by children.								
* Extra materials are available to the staff in order to add variety to usual activities.								
* Materials are consistent with educational objectives.								
* Materials are consistent with the culture and ethnic background of the population served.								
* Materials are accessible, attractive and inviting to the children.								

H-4 - A variety of developmentally and age-appropriate materials and equipment are available for children indoors and outdoors.	EVALUATION			STATUS			NEED	
	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Strength	Goal for the Year	Emerging	In Place	Technical Assistance	Resource
* Materials are designed to provide a variety of learning experiences and to encourage experimentation and exploration.								
* Multi-purpose, open-ended materials are used so that children are not restricted to a specific use for materials (clay, paint, blocks, wood, natural materials, parquetry blocks, rods).								

Notes/Comments:

H-5 - Individual space is provided for each child's belongings.	EVALUATION			STATUS			NEED	
	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Strength	Goal for the Year	Emerging	In Place	Technical Assistance	Resource
* There is a place to hang clothing for each child.								
* There are places for storing extra clothing and other belongings such as art work to be taken home.								

Notes/Comments:

H-6 - Private areas where children can play or work alone with a friend are available indoors and outdoors. <small>For example: Book corners, lofts, tunnels, or playhouses that are easy for adults to supervise.</small>	EVALUATION			STATUS			NEED	
	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Strength	Goal for the Year	Emerging	In Place	Technical Assistance	Resource

Notes/Comments:

H-7 - The environment includes soft, comfortable elements. <small>For example: Rugs, cushions, rocking chairs, soft furniture, soft toys, and adults who cuddle children in their laps.</small>	EVALUATION			STATUS			NEED	
	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Strength	Goal for the Year	Emerging	In Place	Technical Assistance	Resource

Notes/Comments:

H-8 - Sound absorbing materials such as ceiling tile and rugs are used to cut down noise.	EVALUATION			STATUS			NEED	
	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Strength	Goal for the Year	Emerging	In Place	Technical Assistance	Resource

Notes/Comments:

H-9 - An outdoor play and learning space is provided or arranged.	EVALUATION			STATUS			NEED	
	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Strength	Goal for the Year	Emerging	In Place	Technical Assistance	Resource
Notes/Comments:								
H-9a - A variety of daily activities can occur outdoors throughout the year. The outdoor area always has:	EVALUATION			STATUS			NEED	
	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Strength	Goal for the Year	Emerging	In Place	Technical Assistance	Resource
* A natural environment (a balance of shade and sun, with vegetation) which is used for both learning and social activities.								
* A variety of surfaces such as hardtop for wheel toys, grass for rolling, sand and soil for digging.								
Notes/Comments:								
H-9b - The outdoor play area is protected from access to streets and other dangers.	EVALUATION			STATUS			NEED	
	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Strength	Goal for the Year	Emerging	In Place	Technical Assistance	Resource
Notes/Comments:								