



PA Position Statements for the ECERS-3

These position statements are the result of the need to consider the impact of Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) Certification Regulations and other Pennsylvania program specific expectations on the scoring of the items in the ECERS-3 scale. In the case of each statement input from multiple sources including the ECERS-3 scale authors, DHS Certification, OCDEL and other experts were considered in the creation of the statement.

General PA Position Statement:

The ECERS-3 will be the assessment tool in classrooms/groups where the majority of the children are preschool age (37 months through the date the child enters kindergarten). All classrooms operated by the facility, including those not certified under DHS or dually certified (such as, but not limited to, Department of Education, Federal Head Start and Nursery school classrooms) are considered for an ERS assessment. In classrooms of mixed ages, the assessment tool will be determined by the age level that represents the highest number of enrolled children in the group: Infant/toddler; Preschool; or School-Age.

ECERS-3 may also be used in:

- *Group day care homes which are not located in a residence and only serve children 37 months through entrance into kindergarten.*
- *Group day care homes which are not located in a residence, physically separate children into age-based groupings (i.e., separate classrooms) and children 37 months through entrance into kindergarten represent the highest number of enrolled children in the program.*

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Item	Indicator	Indicator Description	Position Statement	Supporting Guidance
<p>General PA Position Statement regarding hand washing and use of hand sanitizers.</p>			<p>Child and adult hand washing is required by regulation before meals and snacks, after toileting and diapering, and when the hands are visibly soiled. The use of a hand sanitizer is not a substitute for hand washing in these instances.</p> <p>Hand sanitizers may be used with children ages 24 months and older for hand washing unrelated to meals/snacks, toileting/diapering and when not visibly soiled (such as after blowing noses, before sensory play, and other times hand washing is expected in the Environment Rating Scales)</p> <p>The program must follow the guidelines below when using hand sanitizer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the label before using a hand sanitizer. If the instructions on the hand sanitizer prohibit its use for children, the hand sanitizer should not be in the facility. Also, note any age restrictions on the label and follow those restrictions. At all times, follow the directions on the product label. • The provider must obtain written parental permission for a child to use a hand sanitizer prior to permitting a child to use a hand sanitizer. The signed parental permission must be kept on file in the child’s record at the facility. • Hand sanitizers must be inaccessible to children when not in immediate use. • A staff person must be physically present with and directly supervising a child who is using a hand sanitizer. The staff person must remain with the child until the hand sanitizer has dried on the child’s hands. <p>The steps for using a hand sanitizer are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply an appropriate amount of the product to the palm of one hand (refer to the directions on the label of the hand sanitizer). 2. Rub hands together. 3. Rub the product over all surfaces of hands and fingers until hands are dry. 	<p>ELS/KS-09 #39, issued 9/25/2009 Caring for Our Children (CFOC)</p>

Item	Indicator	Indicator Description	Position Statement	Supporting Guidance
<p>#8 Meals/snacks</p>	1.1, 3.2	Addresses the nutritional value of food that is served.	<p>Food provided by the program is expected to meet the expectations of the indicators. The practice of supplementing foods brought from home will not be considered in scoring.</p>	CACFP/USDA Guidelines
	5.3	Expects consistent and effective implementation of sanitary procedures.	<p>All containers/spray bottles used for sanitizing must be inaccessible to children when not in use and labeled with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the Product • The products intended use (sanitizer or disinfectant) • Product EPA registration number • Dilution recipe • Contact time required to effectively sanitize • Other directions relevant to proper usage 	<p>CFOC STANDARD 4.9.0.9: Cleaning Food Areas and Equipment</p> <p>CFOC Appendix J “Selecting an Appropriate Sanitizer or Disinfectant”</p> <p>Definitions: <i>Sanitizer</i> is a product that reduces germs on inanimate surfaces to levels considered safe by public health codes or regulations. A sanitizer may be appropriate to use on food contact surfaces (dishes, utensils, cutting boards, high chair trays), toys that children may place in their mouths, and pacifiers.</p>

Item	Indicator	Indicator Description	Position Statement	Supporting Guidance
			<p>Bleach/Water: It is no longer possible to provide a generic bleach recipe for sanitizing in early care and education programs. Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered bleach. Follow label instructions for use. When label instructions are not provided, use the following link to enter the EPA number of the product. http://iaspub.epa.gov/apex/pesticides/f?p=PPLS:1.</p> <p>These instructions may also be found in the online (updated version) of <i>Caring for Our Children, 4th edition</i> in Appendix J at https://nrckids.org/Files/Appendix/AppendixJ2020.pdf</p>	<p>Commercial Products: Use an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered product for sanitizing and disinfecting. Follow label instructions for use.</p>

Item	Indicator	Indicator Description	Position Statement	Supporting Guidance
#9 Toileting/ diapering	5.2, 7.2	Assesses consistency in implementing sanitary procedures.	<p>All containers/spray bottles used for disinfecting must be inaccessible to children when not in use and labeled with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the Product • The products intended use (sanitizer or disinfectant) • Product EPA registration number • Dilution recipe • Contact time required to effectively sanitize • Other directions relevant to proper usage <p>Bleach/Water: It is no longer possible to provide a generic bleach recipe for sanitizing in early care and education programs. Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered bleach. Follow label instructions for use. When label instructions are not provided, use the following link to enter the EPA number of the product. http://iaspub.epa.gov/apex/pesticides/f?p=PPLS:1.</p> <p>These instructions may also be found in the online (updated version) of <i>Caring for Our Children</i>, 4th edition in Appendix J at https://nrckids.org/Files/Appendix/AppendixJ2020.pdf</p>	<p>CFOC STANDARD 3.2.1.4: Diaper Changing Procedure</p> <p>CFOC Appendix K “Routine Schedule for Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting.</p> <p>CFOC Appendix J “Selecting an Appropriate Sanitizer or Disinfectant” Definitions:</p> <p>Disinfectant is a product that destroys or inactivates germs on an inanimate object. A disinfectant may be appropriate to use on non-porous surfaces such as diaper change tables, counter tops, door and cabinet handles, and toilets and other bathroom surfaces.</p> <p>Commercial Products: Use an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered product for sanitizing and disinfecting. Follow label instructions for use.</p>

Item	Indicator	Indicator Description	Position Statement	Supporting Guidance
#10 Health practices	1.2, 3.2, 5.2, 7.1	Expects rest equipment to have a minimum separation.	At least 24 inches of open space from other napping children or furniture/equipment is required on three sides of nap equipment. The expectation is for all children to be separated in this manner to prevent the spread of germs during sleep, to maintain visual supervision, and to insure adequate space for access in case of an emergency.	PA DHS Certification Regulations DHS Code # 3270.106
#11 Safety Practices	1.1, 1.2, 3.1, 3.2, 5.1, 7.1 1.3, 3.3	Assesses the presence, indoors and outdoors, of safety hazards. References supervision to protect children’s well-being	An observed hazard that is a PA DHS certification violation will be considered to be a major safety hazard. Any product or material, including medicines and cleaning materials, labeled, “Keep out of reach of children,” and not stored in locked areas or containers will be considered to be a major safety hazard. Classrooms not regulated by DHS or dually certified (such as, but not limited to, Department of Education, Federal Head Start, and Nursery school classrooms) are expected to maintain the staff:child ratio required by their regulatory/certifying body. All classrooms regulated by DHS are expected to meet DHS ratios and be in compliance with DHS requirements for child supervision.	CFOC STANDARD 5.2.9.1: Use and Storage of Toxic Substances

Item	Indicator	Indicator Description	Position Statement	Supporting Guidance
#18 Art	Item Note	The category of art tools includes scissors as an example.	The list of examples is amended to specify child safe scissors. Other tools may also be included as permitted by DHS regulations.	Items may constitute a PA DHS certification violation if they are not designed for use by children and present a danger to them. DHS Code # 3270.21
#21 Dramatic Play	5.1	This indicator expects dress-up clothing for boys and girls.	All job specific and/or activity specific clothing (such as hard hats, uniforms, and sportswear) is included as clothing worn by both men and women and cannot be considered gender specific options.	
#27 Appropriate use of technology	Item Note	Assesses children's use of technology.	All use of technology by children is: developmentally appropriate; interactive; standards-based (Connected to PA Early Learning Standards); coupled with real-world activities; culturally and linguistically appropriate, and part of a balance of activities.	<p>The joint position statement from NAEYC and the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media¹, defines interactive media as <i>"designed to facilitate active and creative use by young children and to encourage social engagement with other children and adults"</i></p> <p>In addition, the definition of technology tools encompasses a broad range of digital devices, such as: computers, tablets, multi-touch screens, interactive whiteboards, mobile devices, DVD, VCR, VHS tapes.</p> <p>¹NAEYC. 2011." Technology and Interactive Media as Tools in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children from Birth through Age 8." Position Statement. Washington DC: Author. http://issuu.com/naeyc/docs/ps_tech_nology_issuu_may2012?e=2112065/2_087657</p>

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Changing Diapers, Pull-ups and Soiled Underwear

The following guidelines are for use in child care centers, group homes and family day care homes where diapering and toilet training occurs. The ERS Authors, *Caring for Our Children 3rd Edition Standards*, DHS Certification Regulations and ECELS guidance were used in the creation of this document.

Soiled/Wet Diapers*	Soiled/Wet Pull-ups and Underwear*
1. Adult washes their hands. (Only expected if, prior to changing the diaper, pull up or underwear, it is checked by reaching into it to see if a change is needed)	
2. Gather all supplies for the diaper change and place on or near the changing surface above the child's head. (Enough wipes for the process removed from container, clean diaper, a plastic for soiled clothing, and clean clothes if needed) If used: disposable gloves, dab of diaper cream on disposable towel, changing table paper (enough to reach from child's shoulders to their feet)	2. Gather supplies for the change process and place on or near the changing surface outside the contaminated area. (Enough wipes for the process removed from container, clean pull up or underwear, clean clothes and a plastic bag for soiled clothing if needed) If used: Paper liner (large enough to stand on and fold over if needed), disposable gloves
3. Place the child on the changing table and remove clothing to access diaper keeping the clothing out of the contaminated area. Never leave the child unattended on a changing table or countertop. If clothing is soiled place in a plastic bag to send home.	3. Consider whether to change the child lying down or standing up. (If child will be changed lying down follow the procedure for diapers)
4. Unfasten the diaper leaving it under the child for the wiping steps or place the soiled diaper directly into the lined hands-free trash can.	4. If using paper liner, have child stand on paper.
5. Use wipes to clean child's bottom from front to back and place inside the soiled diaper or directly into a lined, hands-free covered trash can. Use each wipe for only one swipe.	5. To avoid contamination of clean shoes, socks and clothing, remove unsoiled clothing and set aside. (If the child's shirt is clean it is helpful to have them hold their shirt up above their waist during the change.)
6. If the soiled diaper was left under the child for the wipe step, fold the soiled surface of the diaper inward over the used wipes and place the bundle in the trash can. If gloves were used, discard them now into the same trash can.	6. Remove soiled clothing and place in a plastic bag to send home. If a pull-up was used, remove by pulling the sides apart and discard it in a lined, hands-free covered trash can. If underwear was used remove from the child doing your best to avoid contamination of surfaces and place with clothes in the bag.
7. Use a wipe to remove soil from your hands and throw it in the trash can. Use another wipe to remove soil from the child's hands and throw it in the trash can.	7. If paper liner was used check for soil around the child and fold paper over if needed so there is a clean surface to stand on.
8. If paper liner was used, check for soil under the child and fold paper up from the child's feet to cover the area and create a clean surface under child's bottom.	8. Clean the child's skin around their pull-up/underwear area, wiping from front to back using each wipe for only one swipe. Place each used wipe in the trash can. Discard gloves (if used) in the trash can.
9. Put on the clean diaper and diaper cream if needed and redress the child.	9. Use a wipe to remove soil from your hands and throw it in the trash can. Use another wipe to remove soil from the child's hands and throw it in the trash can.
10. Wash the child's hands and return them to the group without touching other surfaces. Store bagged, soiled clothing for parents in an area inaccessible to children.	10. Assist the child, as needed, in putting on a clean pull-up or underwear and getting redressed, including socks and shoes. Supervise the washing of the child's hands and their return to the group without touching other surfaces.
11. Dispose of paper liner in trash can if used. Clean visible soil from changing table and disinfect the surface with bleach/water solution or an EPA approved product according to directions.	11. Store bagged, soiled clothing for parents in an area inaccessible to children. Dispose of paper liner in trash can if used. Clean visible soil from changing area and disinfect the surface with bleach/water or an EPA approved product according to directions.
12. Adult washes hands. Record the change in the child's log.	12. Adult washes hands. Record the change in the child's log.
Hand Washing Procedure: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moisten hands with water and use liquid soap 2. Rub hands together away from water for 20 seconds 3. Rinse hands free of soap under running water 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Leaving water running, dry hands with a clean paper towel or an air blower 5. Turn off faucet using paper towel 6. Throw the used paper towel into a hands-free trash can

*Note: All changes must be completed on a surface that can be disinfected after use. Because changing a child from the floor level or on a chair puts the adult in an awkward position and increases the risk of contamination, it is recommended that a changing table be used when possible. (CFOC, 4th Edition).