

ENVIRONMENT RATING SCALE (ERS)

↳ INTEREST CENTERS

ITERS-3

Cozy Area

- A substantial amount of softness
- Allow a child to completely escape the normal hardness of an early childhood classroom
- Should be protected from active play

*You could combine your cozy area with a variety of books to create a reading center for the children.

Blocks (older toddlers/twos)

- Set aside (area out of traffic)
- Blocks and accessories stored and organized by type:
 - Blocks plentiful enough so children can build independent structures
 - At least 5 accessories (small people, vehicles, animals) accessible to children
- Suitable building surface (flat rug or other steady surface)

Dramatic Play (toddlers and twos)

- Children are free to use materials in their own way, as part of their own make-believe play
- Many and varied materials accessible:
 - Dolls, soft animals, dress-up clothes, and child-sized furniture are indicator expectations
 - Materials should represent all but two of the dramatic play material examples in the scale book
- Materials being stored and organized by type

Nature/science (twos)

- Materials stored on low, open shelves, organized by type
- Other furniture to help children use the materials should be present, if needed
- A generous number of materials. Materials may include:
 - Natural objects
 - Tools
 - Living plants or animals
 - Books and toys depicting realistic natural content

ECERS-3

Cozy Area

- A substantial amount of softness
- Allow a child to completely escape the normal hardness of an early childhood classroom
- Should be protected from active play

Books

- A wide selection of books
- A place to store books for easy access that encourages book use (covers easily seen)
- Comfortable furnishings to use the books
- Separated from active/noisy areas

Dramatic Play

- Children are free to use materials in their own way, as part of their own make-believe play
- Many and varied materials accessible for children to use in their pretend play:
 - Dolls, child-sized furniture, play foods, cooking/eating utensils, dress-up clothes for boys and girls
 - Additional props for housekeeping or materials from other themes
- Organized storage and materials are easy to access

Nature/science

- Materials stored on low, open shelves, organized by type
- Other furniture to help children use the materials should be present, if needed
- At least 15 nature/science materials accessible, some from each of the 5 listed categories:
 - Living things
 - Natural objects
 - Factual books/nature-science games
 - Tools
 - Sand or water with toys (does not need to be located within interest center)

Blocks

- Set aside (area out of traffic)
- Suitable building surface (flat rug or other steady surface)
- Enough space, unit and/or hollow blocks, and accessories (small people, vehicles, animals):
 - For at least 3 children to build sizeable independent structures at the same time
- Blocks and accessories organized by type and stored on open, labeled shelves (labeled with pictures or outline of blocks)