

#### Suggested Materials List Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale-Third Edition (I-3) Ages 0 months – 3 years

Classroom:	Teacher:
Ages served:	Completed by:
Number of children enrolled:	Date:

Children learn best through play. Ensuring your classroom is well-stocked with the recommended <u>accessible</u> toys and materials will help keep the children engaged in play, increase appropriate behaviors, and promote success in school.

The recommended materials need to be in good repair, organized and easily accessible to the children anytime they are not involved in routine care. Please note the examples are not all inclusive. Staff will review the left-hand column and then complete the right-hand column based on their classroom. Write specific plans to improve your classroom.

When using the ITERS-3, access of materials to children differs by age within the infant/toddler group. This scale breaks down the ages in the following manner:

**Infants** are those under 12 months of age. **Ones** are children aged 12 months through 23 months. **Twos** are those who are 24 months through 35 months of age.

*For infants* to have access to materials, it will depend on their mobility. Some infants scoot, roll, or crawl, others are non-mobile. For those non-mobile infants, staff must make material accessible to them by physically bringing materials to the child(ren). All materials should be within the eyesight of the non-mobile infants.

*For mobile children*, materials should be stored where children can physically reach them, play with them nearby, and place them back in their storage containers/low shelves independently (as possible).

Access to materials should occur anytime a child is awake and ready to play, and not in routine care. This scale also allows for major lapses (at the 3 level of quality), short lapses (at the 5 level of quality), or no lapse (at the 7 level of quality).

A long lapse is anytime a child(ren) is restricted from accessing materials for a lengthy period (e.g., moving as a group from one activity to another group activity, and children losing interest but are required to remain in that group whether they are engaged or not).

A **short lapse** occurs when a child(ren) is restricted from choosing their own activity for a brief time (e.g., one short, age-appropriate story OR one short movement activity where all children are engaged, and no child is restricted from leaving the activity). Stories and songs/movement are required to occur but, ideally, should take place during free play when children come and go as they please. Encouragement of verbal play, gentle touch, and positive interaction is appropriate with individual children throughout the day.

#### 1 ITERS-3

Materials/Items Needed		Notes/Observations	
Routine care, play, and learning			
<ul> <li>Separate storage for each child's belongings (diaper bags, coats, e</li> </ul>		Storage of children's belongings:	
there is a physical barrier betweer belongings.		Seating for children:	
<ul> <li>Comfortable and supportive seati support, footrest),</li> </ul>	ng (back and side	Furniture for routine care/play:	
<ul> <li>Furniture supports self-help (steps c low, sturdy tables, and shelves)</li> </ul>	at sink/diaper table,	Adult seating:	
<ul> <li>Furniture suitable for individual ca children (highchairs for infants, tal</li> </ul>	re and for the age of the bles, and chairs for Ones	Specifically designed furniture:	
<ul> <li>&amp; Twos)</li> <li>Open shelves for storage of toys a</li> </ul>		Soft furnishings available:	
<ul> <li>Adult seating for routine care</li> <li>Specifically designed furniture for bookshelf, dramatic play furniture easel)</li> </ul>	older toddlers (tiered	Plan for improvement:	
<ul> <li>Soft furnishings in several areas of carpet, pillows, soft chairs)</li> </ul>	the room (rugs,		
Examples			
Cozy Area Low sh		Crib Low feeding chair	7
			Adult routine care chair
	Child-size seating		
Cubbies	Soft area rug	Dramatic Play child-size Specifically designed furniture	Child-size tables and chairs

#### **Room Arrangement** Suitable space for differing activities (messy, active, • Suitable space for differing activities: cozv/auiet) • A special cozy area is available to the children with ample soft Routine care areas convenient for staff: furnishings and soft toys – a place where children can sit/lay and relax. At least two infant play areas (for infants) ٠ Number of play spaces accessible: At least three interest centers (for toddlers – ones and twos) ٠ Routine care area conveniently arranged. ٠ Number of interest centers accessible: Visual supervision allows children to be seen at a glance. • Quiet and active play (gross motor) areas separated: All play areas are accessible to enrolled children with disabilities: Traffic patterns do not interfere with activities

Examples



2 Play areas for infants



3 Interest areas for toddlers



Plan for improvement:

Infant/Toddler routine area conveniently arranged

# Display for children Artwork done by the children (if applicable) Artwork displayed: • Pictures and posters of things relevant to the children ٠ (nature, animals, people) Photos of a child's home-life experience Pictures/posters displayed: ٠ Two (2) mobiles or 3D objects where children can easily see -٠ (when looking from the floor) with parts that move in space (windsocks, mobiles, hanging plants, wind chimes) Photographs of children/familiar people Hanging 3-D objects: Staff point out and talk extensively with child(ren) about displayed materials Plan for improvement:

Examples





Textures



Family tree – familiar



3-D mobiles and/or hanging objects/plants



### 4 ITERS-3

Staff use of books, and encouragement of use of books by children	
<ul> <li>More than 20 different choices of books accessible – but no less</li> </ul>	Categories:
<ul> <li>Hore man 20 anterent choices or books accessible - borno less than 6</li> <li>Books should be vinyl, cloth, board, or otherwise age appropriate for the children in the room.</li> <li>Books should represent the following topics: <u>races, ages</u> (books with people of all ages-infant through senior adults), <u>abilities</u> (books that show people of differing abilities – sign language, glasses, hearing aids, using wheelchairs, etc.) <u>cultures</u>, and <u>gender roles</u> (males and</li> </ul>	Races, Ages, Abilities, Cultures Gender roles, Factual, Fictional Total number accessible Do books contain violence: y / n
females shown in same role)	Do staff read to children?
At least two fictional and two factual/science/nature	
books are included.	Do staff use positive interest extension with children who choose to use books independently?
<ul> <li>Books should not be frightening, contain any inappropriate scenes or a theme of violence.</li> </ul>	Are books rotated to correspond with themes?
<ul> <li>Books should never be used as a transitional activity where most children can get distracted easily.</li> </ul>	Are books used as a transitional activity?
<ul> <li>At least three (3) books that correspond to current seasons, themes, or interests are included.</li> </ul>	Plan for improvement:



Tiered bookshelf



Toddler comfortable seating



Infant comfortable book area

#### 5 ITERS

Fine Motor	
Infant materials (under 12 months old)	Age of oldest child
<ul> <li>More than 10 different choices of toys for a group of infants.</li> <li>If there are more than 5 infants, more choices of materials</li> </ul>	Number of toys neededTotal number of toys accessible
<ul> <li>should be accessible throughout the observation.</li> <li>Materials should support a variety of skills (grasping, dumping, filling, cause and effect, shaking).</li> </ul>	Fine Motor toys accessible for infants:
<ul> <li>Toddler materials (12 months and older)</li> <li>More than 10 toys for a group of toddlers,</li> </ul>	Fine Motor toys accessible for toddlers/twos:
<ul> <li>If there are more than a small group of toddlers (5), more materials should be accessible.</li> <li>Materials should support a variety of skills (shape sorters, simple puzzles, Duplo blocks – or other interlocking blocks, nesting toys, stacking rings, large stringing beads, large pegs with peg boards, etc.).</li> </ul>	Plan for improvement:



### 6 ITERS

<ul> <li>All materials used are non-toxic and safe for the children.</li> <li>Artwork should be creative and individualized – no dittos, coloring sheets, or art activities that have a right or wrong way to complete are used.</li> <li>Staff should use words and actions to teach children to use art materials. Most art activities allow children to use the materials in their own way.</li> <li>Older toddlers (18-23 months) – observed during the observation.</li> <li>Large non-toxic crayons, non-toxic chalk, and large paper</li> <li>Older toddlers (14.20 meeths), meetsible during the observation.</li> </ul>	Art Art is not required if all the children in the room are under 18 months of age - however if observed, this item is scored.	Age of oldest child Are art activities done with children? Yes No
	<ul> <li>All materials used are non-toxic and safe for the children.</li> <li>Artwork should be creative and individualized – no dittos, coloring sheets, or art activities that have a right or wrong way to complete are used.</li> <li>Staff should use words and actions to teach children to use art materials. Most art activities allow children to use the materials in their own way.</li> <li>Older todalers (18-23 months) – observed during the observation.</li> <li>Large non-toxic crayons, non-toxic chalk, and large paper</li> <li>Older todalers (24-30 months) – accessible during the observation</li> <li>At least one (1) drawing material for older todalers is accessible. (any of the above) plus, glue sticks, washable markers, tempera paint with age-appropriate paint brushes, blunt scissors, bingo blotters, playdough, collage items (e.g., self-stick stamps, stickers, yarn, large pom</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>What materials are accessible to older toddlers (Twos):</li> <li>Do staff use words AND actions to teach children to use art materials? Yes No</li> <li>Do staff talk with children extensively and individually about their artwork? Yes No</li> <li>Do staff write captions about artwork dictated by interested 2-year-olds and older? Yes No</li> <li>Do staff teach concepts to children while children are using art materials? Yes No</li> <li>Concepts include comparing color, shape, and size.</li> </ul>



Washable paints



Collage tissue paper



Playdough

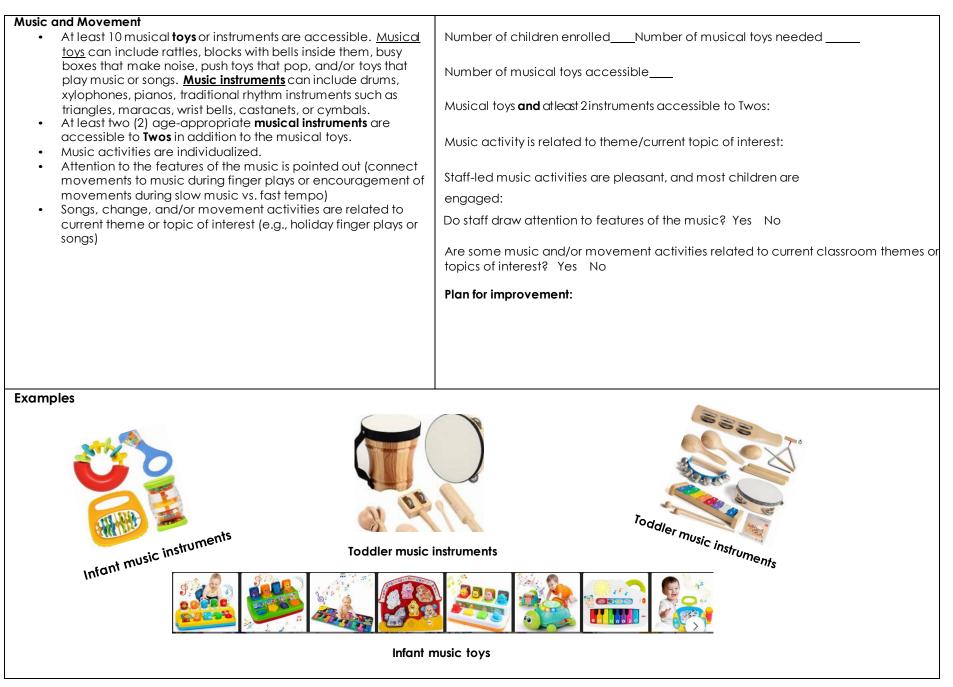




Chunky chalk

Bingo dabbers

# 7 ITERS



#### 8 ITERS

<ul> <li>of 12 months.</li> <li>At least 1 set of blocks (lightweight, various sizes, shapes, colors; large cardboard blocks, unit blocks, and smaller blocks with most sides less than 2 inches such as table blocks or alphabet blocks) are accessible to infants.</li> <li>Infants have more than 6 blocks in one set</li> <li>Mobile children should have access to plenty of blocks (enough for no competition for use by children to create independent structures).</li> <li>Staff make blocks accessible to non-mobile infants.</li> <li>At least five (5) accessories from each of the following</li> <li>Categories for Ones and Twos: transportation toys, people, and animals</li> <li>Positive involvement by staff while children are using blocks.</li> <li>Staff describe what they are doing while modeling block building</li> <li>A Blocks Interest Center is accessible to children 18 months and older.</li> </ul>	Blocks are accessible to infants: Blocks and accessories Accessories are accessible to Ones and Twos? Yes No Sets of blocks and number of blocks: 1. Lightweight blocks (various shapes, sizes, colors) Number of blocks 2. Cardboard Blocks Accessories: People Vehicles Animals Is block play out of the line of traffic and other children's play? y / n Staff describe what they are doing as they model areating simple structures: with infants and todders: Yes No There is a block Interest Center accessible to Older Toddlers (18 months) and Twos? Yes No Plan for improvement:
Examples	





Vinyl blocks



Block shape sorter



**Rubber blocks** 

Dramatic play	Infants and Toddlers and Twos:	Toddlers and Twos
For Infants (under 12 months old):	Dolls: (required)	Simple dress-up clothes:
<ul> <li>Plenty of materials represent what children typically experience in their lives (household routines, work, and transportation)</li> <li>Materials are varied, and may include soft dolls, soft</li> </ul>	Soft animals: (required) Pots and pans:	Child-size play furniture: Play foods:
<ul> <li>Materials are varied, and may include soft dolls, soft animals, pots and pans, toy telephones, small people</li> </ul>	Toy telephones:	Cooking/eating equipment:
figures, toy foods, toy animal figures, toy vehicles, hats/purses	Small people: (may be in blocks)	Doll furniture:
For Toddlers and Twos (12 months or older):	Toy foods:	Small buildings with accessories:
<ul> <li>At least two (2) examples from each of the following categories:, <u>soft animals</u>, <u>pots and pans</u>, <u>toy telephones</u>,</li> </ul>	Toy animals: (may be in blocks)	
<u>dress-up clothes (</u> purses, hats, clothes, shoes, etc.), <u>child-</u>	Toy vehicles: (may be in blocks)	
<u>size play furniture</u> (sink, stove, vacuum, shopping cart, table and chairs, etc.), <u>play foods</u> , <u>dishes/eating utensils</u> , <u>doll</u>	Hats and/or purses:	
<u>furniture</u> (doll clothes, doll bed, stroller, etc.), and <u>small</u> <u>buildings <b>with</b> accessories (</u> barn with animals, etc.)	Do staff name some objects children ex	xperience in their dramatic play? Yes No
<ul> <li>A dramatic play Interest Center is accessible to Ones and Twos</li> </ul>	Do staff sometimes interact positively w play? Yes No	vith children as they engage in dramatic
<ul> <li>Staff frequently join in children's play, adding appropriate language.</li> <li>Dramatic play materials are provided outdoors for Toddlers and Twos outdoors or in <b>anothe</b>r large area (indoor active</li> </ul>		play, adding appropriate language? Yes
play area)?	Plan for improvement:	
<ul> <li>For Infants, Toddlers and Twos:</li> <li>At least four (4) dramatic play examples are accessible that clearly represent diversity (race, cultures, equipment used by people of different cultures or by people with differing abilities, dress-up clothing from different cultures, pretend foods from different cultures).</li> <li>Dolls with three (3) different skin tones/facial features are accessible</li> <li>At least two (2) soft animals are accessible</li> </ul>		



Dramatic play furnishings

and materials



Doll and bed



Dramatic play combo unit



Dishes and utensils



Play foods



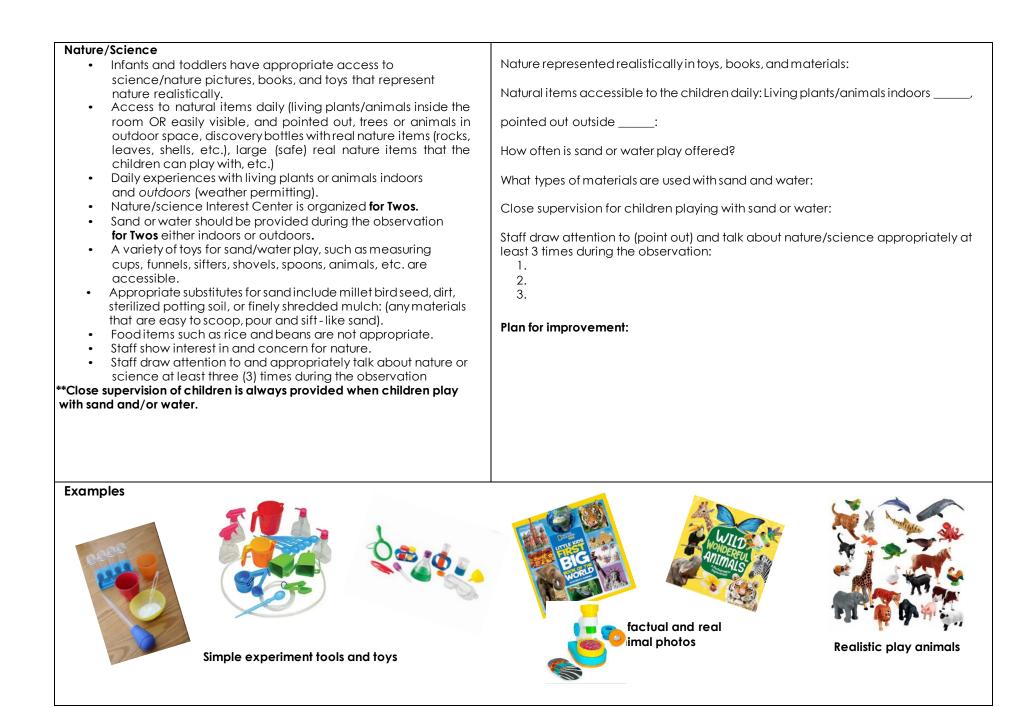
Toy vehicles



Play people



Realistic play animals



### 12 ITERS

Math/number	
Appropriate math/number materials are accessible to all ages	Math/number materials are accessible to all ages: Yes No (list materials below)
Infants: number picture books, grasping toys/rattles of differing	
shapes, or numbers, busy boxes with numbers/shapes, nesting	Infants:
cups, stacking rings.	
Toddlers: number picture books, busy boxes with	Ones:
numbers/shapes, nesting cups, easy shape puzzles, shape sorters,	
cash registers & toy telephones with numbers/shapes on keys,	Twos:
number blocks, materials that show both number and	
corresponding number of objects, stacking rings, activity boxes	Are number chant/song/nursery rhymes are used: Yes No
with different shapes to push;	
Twos: all the above for toddlers, AND/OR sets of blocks with	Do staff count objects for children in an engaging manner? Yes No
various shapes and sizes, simple number puzzles, large, safe tape	
measures.	Do staff correctly compare shapes, quantity, or sizes while children are using
<ul> <li>Number songs, chants, nursery rhymes OR finger plays used with</li> </ul>	materials? Yes No
children.	
<ul> <li>Numbers are pointed out and TWOS are helped to become</li> </ul>	Are fingers used to enhance number talk? Yes No
aware of what printed numbers mean.	C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C
<ul> <li>Math words are used to describe sequence of daily events (first,</li> </ul>	Are math words are used to describe sequence of daily events (first, second, and
second, and third).	third): Yes No
<ul> <li>Fingers are used when number talk is used with children.</li> </ul>	
	Do staff sometimes help children become aware of what printed numbers mean?
	Yes No
	Plan for improvement:



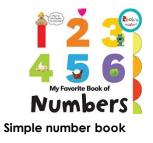
Number train



number nesting cups



Number pegs and boards



#### 13 ITERS

Appropriate use of technology	Is screen time is limited to Two-year-olds and for 15 minutes during the observation?
<ul> <li>No screen time should be used with children under 24 months.</li> <li>Screen time for Twos is limited to 15 minutes during observation.</li> </ul>	Yes No
<ul> <li>All materials used are limited to those which are appropriate for age and comprehension ability.</li> </ul>	
Three or more alternatives are accessible during ANY screen time.	Are all materials used to support and enhance themes or classroom related activities? Yes No
<ul> <li>Staff are actively involved with children who are using technology (e.g., watch, and interact with children)</li> <li>Most technological materials encourage creative activity or vigorous movement.</li> </ul>	Does all technology encourage active involvement, movement, or creative activity? Yes No
<ul> <li>Materials used to support and extend children's current interests and experience (theme related)</li> </ul>	Plan for improvement:



V-tech toddler laptops with animation on screens





Use of TV/White Board/Computer

Using materials with laptop/computers

### 14 ITERS

#### Promoting acceptance of diversity

- At least 10 total examples including books, pictures and other materials that represent the following categories of diversity: <u>race</u> (skin tones/facial features), <u>culture</u> (must include a contrast between two dress-up materials, language in books, a contrast between two cultural foods), <u>ages</u> (materials of people of varying ages), <u>abilities</u> (people with disabilities, glasses, etc.) and <u>gender roles</u> (men and women in nonstereotypical roles)
- Other materials can include food, cooking/eating utensils, dress-up, puzzles, instruments, block people etc.
- Dolls that represent at least three different races through skin tones or facial features
- Pictures of differing gender roles can include men and women engaged in sports, construction, military service, or in nurturing activities.
- Pictures should be easily observable to children.
- Staff should be observed to engage in diverse learning activities (sing songs in more than one language use music from varying cultures, read multicultural books, use sign language for some words)
- All children are on individual schedules and recognized for their individuality

Are staff engaged in promoting diversity in learning activities. Yes No

Do staff recognize and support children for their own individuality (routines should not be completed in groups for infants – diapered, eating, and sleep should all be individualized)? Yes No

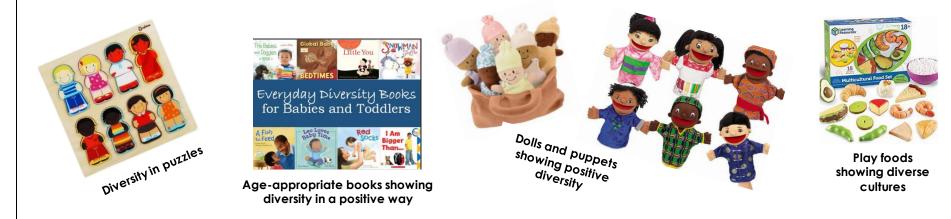
Do staff promote diversity in learning activities they do with children (examples: sing songs in more than one language, use music from varying cultures, read multicultural books, use sign language for some words (more than 1 or 2 words must be signed)? Yes No

	Books	Pictures	Other Materials
Races			
Cultures			
Ages			
Abilities			
Gender			

Are dolls of 3 various races (skin tones/facial features accessible? Yes No

Plan for improvement:

#### Examples



#### 15 ITERS

ross Motor	Gross motor space is appropriate for the number of children using it at one time:
<ul> <li>Indoor space is accessible and allows children to move freely.</li> <li>There is easily accessible outdoor space for toddlers (Ones and Twos) to use daily for 30 minutes, and infants to use for an appropriate length of time.</li> <li>There are enough appropriate gross motor materials and equipment accessible (both stationary and portable) for number of children allowed without undue waiting.</li> <li>Gross motor materials/equipment stimulates a variety of DAP large-muscle skills (e.g., reaching, kicking, crawling, pushing, walking, balancing, climbing, ball play)</li> <li>Outdoor space has 2 or more types of surfaces (e.g. grass, outdoor carpet, rubber cushioned surface, decking, mulch)</li> <li>The space should be large enough for children to play outside of fall zones.</li> <li>Gross motor space should have no major hazards present.</li> <li>Use of the CPSC Playground Guidelines should be used by staff prior to children's use of the playground space, equipment, and/or materials.</li> <li>Non-mobile infants who are unable to sit unsupported should have some gross motor materials accessible (e.g., cradle gym, grasping toys to reach for and shake, balls)</li> <li>Mobile children should have access to ramps (for crawling), riding toys w/o pedals, large push/pull wheeled toys, balls, beanbags, age-appropriate climbing equipment, slide, cushions or rugs for tumbling, tunnels, large cardboard boxes, low balance beam, and small tricycles for TWOS.</li> </ul>	Yes No Gross motor equipment has no major hazards present: (appropriate surfacing, appropriate fall zone, appropriate spacing from other equipment): Yes No Use of the CPSC Playground Guidelines is used by staff to assess the appropriatene of the space, materials, and equipment: Yes No Non-mobile infants have some gross motor materials accessible (e.g., cradle gym) Non-mobile infants can move freely while inside and/or outdoors to the extent of their ability? Yes No Age-appropriate climbing equipment: Age-appropriate riding or push/pull toys: Age-appropriate wheeled toys with and without pedals: Plan for improvement:
camples *	Riding, crawling, climbing, pushing with arms or legs and/or ball play Play for Young Toddlers

Grasping toys for infants

## 16 ITERS

Crib gym for infants

. Harms, T., Cryer, D., Clifford, R., & Yazejian, Y. (2017). Infant/toddler environment rating scale (third edition). New York, NY: Teacher's College Press. Cryer, D., Riley, C., Link, T, & McCullough, V. (2022). All About the ITERS-3. Lewisville, NC: Gryphon House Inc.

Infant/toddler climbing materials