



SACERS-UPDATED Clarifications

Please read: The following are required to be completed as components of Delaware Stars assessments using the Environment Rating Scales (ERS). These requirements include information from Delacare Rules, additional notes that provide information identified by Delaware Stars to be included in assessments not already identified by Delacare or the SACERS-UPDATED. In cases where Delacare Rules go beyond what the scales require, Delaware Stars will defer to Delacare Rules. If Delaware Stars clarifications and the author's notes differ, Delaware Stars clarifications shall be followed. Other information and author's notes to the scales can be found online on the Environment Rating Scales Institute (ERSi) website at www.ersi.info.

General Notes

The Health and Safety Sub-scale (Items 11-18) and Item 27 will not be observed or included in the results of the assessment or affect the overall score.

The Staff Development Sub-scale (Items 39-41) and the following items will not be included in assessments: 10, 33, 34, 43-47.

For indicators that require rotation or addition of items, the expectation is that items would be rotated or added for variety at least on a monthly basis.

Any materials depicting violence/frightening images will not receive credit.

Any materials or activities (other than supervised cooking activities) that use food will not receive credit. Use of food for any purposes other than meals/snacks is unsanitary, confusing to children, and poses a conflict regarding use and waste of food.

The Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL)/Delacare requires supervision of children at all times (Regulations #28F and 30A).

#8 Furnishings for gross motor activities

Refer to the **Playground Guidelines** published by the Environment Rating Scales Institute for use with the ERS.

5.3 A variety includes at least three different materials that are out and accessible daily (duplicates do not count as more than one material).

#9 Access to host facilities

5.1 This indicator shall read as follows: "School-age child care has ample dedicated space for storage."

5.3, 7.3 These indicators will be scored NA and will not affect the overall score.

#22 Drama/theater

5.1 Variety of props must also support meaningful play for two themes.

#23 Language/reading activities

5.1 Many books accessible to children on a daily basis includes at least 20 books for up to 15 children and one additional book for each child enrolled over that number. For games, there must be enough for all interested children to play without causing conflict due to lack of materials. Additionally, these materials must be age appropriate and some age-appropriate materials must be accessible to all children of all ages served.

#25 Science/nature activities

5.2 Involvement must be at least weekly.

#26 Cultural awareness

Materials displaying stereotypes will not receive credit.

3.1, 5.1 Examples must show a contrast. For instance, one poster showing children of many races is counted as one example; two dolls of different races also count as one example, because they represent one contrast. In order for music to be counted, it must be experienced daily.

#30 Staff supervision of children

5.1 The Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL)/Delacare requires supervision of children at all times (Regulations #28F, 30A, 54C, 63F).

#31 Discipline

7.2 In most cases “consultant” means someone from outside the program that specializes in the area of concern. The early childhood/school age professionals (teachers, director, etc.) who work in the classrooms and center can benefit from an outsider’s perspective of a child who is experiencing difficulties. In a few cases, however, a program staff member can count if the person has a specialization in the area of concern and can give an unbiased perspective.

#36 Schedule

3.2 The written schedule must be posted in the primary space where it can easily be seen.

#42 Provisions for exceptional children

Will be the only item scored for the Special Needs Supplementary Items and will only be scored if children are enrolled with a current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Mental Health (MH) Services Plan.