NC ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THE FCCERS-R

The NC Additional Notes provide supplementary information for the Environment Rating Scales so that participants in the assessment portion of the North Carolina star rated license may correctly interpret and score items found within the scale. A primary aim for the notes is to further define or explain requirements of certain items to improve interrater reliability or consistency among assessors working with the North Carolina Rated License Assessment Project (NCRLAP).

Participants in the NC star rated license system should be aware of the following:

- NCRLAP began using the FCCERS-R on May 1, 2008 for all assessments completed in North Carolina. For assessment purposes this version replaced the FDCRS.
- As of October 1, 2008 unless otherwise specified NCRLAP assessors use both the NC Additional Notes for the FCCERS-R and the FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification created by the authors (available at http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~ecers/)
- NC Additional Notes provide further clarification to assist in the interpretation of the scale and the FPG Additional Notes for Clarification.
- The NC Additional Notes are updated (approximately) every 6 months and NCRLAP assessors conduct assessments using the most current notes. Child care professionals are encouraged to download and use the most current version of the notes from www.ncrlap.org.

Recent Changes

Date	**Where to find the change** *Note: The most recent changes are italicized in this document
11/2010	*Items 24 and 31*
3/2010	Item 9
10/2009	Items 5 and 25
3/30/2009	Items 7 and 9
10/2008	Items 2, 7, 12, 19, 26. References to FPG notes added for additional items. Formatting and grammatical changes were made to the NC notes for several items, but there were no additions to provide new scoring information.

GENERAL NOTES FOR THE FCCERS-R

Handwashing: In certain situations when a sink with running water is not accessible for the group to use, hand sanitizing products may be used in lieu of handwashing. For example, hand sanitizer may be used while staff is supervising children outdoors if hands are washed upon returning indoors. The following requirements must be met; the waterless wash or wipe must be used according to manufacturer guidelines (i.e., labeled as safe for use by children, used only with adult supervision, allowed to dry properly), and the waterless wash must be stored out of reach of children. Please note that this substitution is only acceptable in certain circumstances and that the requirements for adequate handwashing defined on page 10 of the FCCERS-R still apply for routine care activities and general classroom use.

Poor repair: Materials and books that are in poor repair, meaning that they are not usable as intended, are excluded when determining whether the required numbers or examples for various categories have been provided. However, if there is an inappropriate image accessible to children this is always considered regardless of whether or not a material, picture, or book is in poor repair

Sanitation: Apply the following requirements any time that sanitizer is needed. For chlorine bleach and water solution to be effective it must be allowed to dry for a minimum of 2 minutes and complete air drying is ideal. Other EPA registered industrial sanitizers, disinfectants, or germicides may be used if these products are non-toxic and instructions for use are followed.

General references: Materials that are frequently used by NCRLAP to assist in decision making are Caring For Our Children, 2nd edition (used for health, sanitation, and safety issues) and the Handbook for Public Playground Safety, CPSC Publication No. 325 (for gross motor play issues), and ASTMS 2373 Standard Consumer Safety Specifications for Public Use Play Equipment for Children 6 Months through 23 months. Links to these resources are found on our website www.ncrlap.org and providers are encouraged to access these.

ITEM 1:

Indicators 5.2, 7.1: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for these indicators (available at www.fpg.unc.edu).

ITEM 2:

Indicators 1.1, 1.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 7.3: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for these indicators.

Indicators 5.1 and 7.1*:* If fewer than four children are observed do not apply the 75% requirement mentioned in the Notes for Clarification on p. 17 for this indicator. Instead, consider whether furniture is the appropriate size for most of the children to give credit for this indicator. For example, if furniture is the appropriate size for two out of three children then credit would be earned. If only one or two children are observed, then furniture must be appropriate for each child to earn credit.

ITEM 3:

Indicators 3.1, 5.2, 5.3, 7.1, 7.3: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for these indicators.

ITEM 4:

Indicators 1.1, 1.3 and 3.3: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for these indicators.

ITEM 5:

Indicators 3.3, 5.3, 7.2: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for these indicators.

Indicator 5.3. When calculating the number of pieces of children's work required do not count children who do not attend on a regular basis such as "drop-in" children, children who attend only for evening/overnight care, or children who attend less than one hour a day. Do not include school-age children who attend only during summer vacation or teacher work day/holidays during the school year unless the assessment occurs during the summer.

ITEM 6:

Indicators 1.1, 3.2, 5.1: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for these indicators.

ITEM 7:

Indicators 1.1, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for these indicators.

Indicator 3.1: If fewer than four children are observed upon arrival do not apply the 75% requirement mentioned in the Notes for Clarification on page 19 for this indicator, instead consider whether most of the children were greeted to score this indicator. For example if two of three children were greeted credit would be earned for indicator 3.1, but not 5.1. If only one or two children are observed, then each must be greeted to earn credit.

Indicator 3.3*:* Parents must always bring Infant/toddler age children into the care giving space. If the parent is responsible for transporting preschool or school age children to the program, then they must accompany them to the door, but do not have to actually come into the program themselves. When preschool and school-age children are transported by the program rather than the parent, credit is still earned for this indicator.

ITEM 9:

Indicators 1.1, 3.1, 3.2: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for these indicators.

Indicator 3.2*:* Portions of each required food component must be placed on each child's plate unless meals or parts of meals are served family style, in which case a sufficient quantity of the food served family-style must be available for all children to serve themselves the required amounts. Verbally offering a food or beverage that is not within reach of a child is not sufficient.

Indicator 3.3: Sanitary practices must be evident and maintained at least 50% of the time to receive credit.

Sanitary eating surfaces must be cleaned with a soapy water solution, wiped dry and then sprayed with the sanitizing solution before and after eating. For bleach/water sanitizing solution to be effective it must be allowed to dry for a minimum of 2 minutes and complete air drying is ideal. Manufacturer instructions for other sanitizers should be followed. Paper towels or a clean cloth, rather than sponges should be used. The same cloth cannot be used to wipe the soapy water and the sanitizing solution. The use of a clean cloth to wipe sanitizing solution from more than one table is acceptable as long as the sanitizing procedure was carried out correctly.

If a table itself cannot be sanitized, then a place-mat (e.g. vinyl) that is cleaned and sanitized may be used or a clean disposable place-mat may be used.

Indicator 5.4 If substitutions are made for any items on the menu parents must be informed.

ITEM 11:

Indicator 5.4: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for this indicator. Do not apply FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for Indicator 3.4.

Indicator 1.3: This indicator requires that provisions must be made for sick children to be separated from the well children and community activity areas; however the sick child may be in the same room for this indicator to be met.

Indicator 3.4: This indicator refers to the use of both over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription medications. However, the note for clarification on page 29 refers to prescription medication only. Though it would be ideal for a physician to be involved in the decision to administer any types of medication, OTC medications may be given with signed permission from parents as is consistent with licensing rules. Therefore, OTC medication must be in original container and administered according to label instructions, including dosage recommendations based on age or weight of child. Parents requesting deviations from printed instructions must provide written confirmation that they are based on physician's recommendation, including name of physician and date of consultation. Blanket authorization is permissible for certain medications such as diaper cream or sunscreen. Score this indicator NA only if there are no children in the program currently being given any type of medication.

ITEM 12:

Indicator 3.1: There can be no more than 5 minor hazards to earn credit.

Indicator 5.1: To earn credit there can be no major safety hazards and no more than 1 minor hazard.

Indicator 5.3: "Official fire inspection" means that there is a signed report from the fire inspector. In North Carolina counties where fire inspectors will not complete fire safety inspections on family child care homes ask the caregiver whether the fire extinguisher is charged, the smoke alarm is working, and monthly fire drills are completed, to meet the requirements of this indicator.

ITEM 13:

Indicators 3.1, 5.1, 5.4. 7.1: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for these indicators.

ITEM 14:

Indicator 3.1: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for this indicator.

ITEM 15:

Indicators 1.1, 3.1, 3.4, 5.1: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for these indicators.

ITEM 16:

Indicator 5.1: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for this indicator.

ITEM 17:

Indicators 1.1, 1.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, and 5.1: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for these indicators.

ITEM 18:
Indicators 1.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 5.2, 7.2: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for these indicators.

ITEM 19:
Indicators 1.1, 3.1, 3.2, 5.1, 5.3, 7.1: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for these indicators.

Indicators 1.2, 3.1, 5.1, 7.1: Smaller blocks, such as table blocks, count for these indicators for infants/toddlers. For preschool and school age children only larger blocks meet the requirements.

ITEM 20:
Indicators 5.2, 7.1, 7.2: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for these indicators.

ITEM 21:
Indicator 5.2: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for this indicator.

ITEM 22:
Indicators 1.1, 3.1, 3.2, 5.1: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for these indicators.

ITEM 23:
Indicator 3.2: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for this indicator.

ITEM 24:
Indicators 5.1 and 5.2: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for these indicators.

Indicator 5.1: *Do not apply FPG FCCERS-R 6/2010 Additional Note for Clarification when assessing diversity in display for this indicator.*

ITEM 25:
Item 25, 3.3 For children who attend for short periods of time (such as after-school children), no more than 30 minutes of TV use should occur.

ITEM 26:
Indicators 1.1, 1.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for these indicators.

NC assessors use the gross motor safety information sheet titled: “NCRLAP’s Requirements for Gross Motor Space and Equipment”. This document is available at www.ncrlap.org

Indicator 3.2: Spaces used for gross motor play should be fenced and free of major hazards such as inadequate cushioning or fall zones.

Indicator 5.4: To earn credit, there can be no major safety hazards and no more than two minor hazards found in any space used for active play.

ITEM 29:

Indicator 3.3: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for this indicator.

ITEM 30:

Indicators 1.1, 3.1: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for these indicators.

ITEM 31:

Indicator 5.1: *When school-age children are required to do homework without having a choice of an alternative activity, the requirement for having a flexible schedule is not met.*

Indicator 5.3: Modify the first sentence of the Note for Clarification for this indicator on page 60 of the FCCERS-R as follows: Add the words "more than" in front of the number three.

ITEM 32:

Indicator 3.2: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for this indicator.

ITEM 33:

Indicators 1.1, 1.4, 3.3, 5.3: Refer to FPG FCCERS-R Additional Notes for Clarification for these indicators.

ITEM 34:

Requirements in this item apply to each child with an identified disability/special need or medical condition requiring special consideration.

Indicator 3.1: Upon enrollment or upon learning about a recent diagnosis, the provider should seek basic information about the child's identified disability, medical condition or other special need. The provider should have that information within 30 days. In circumstances where the provider reports that a parent is reluctant to share this information, they should be able to explain what continued follow up attempts are occurring including providing explanations about the importance of having this information. This indicator does not require that the provider has actual copies of any assessments or developmental plans. The information may be provided by parents/guardians, or specialists who have specific knowledge regarding the child's needs.

Indicator 3.3: Both parents and the provider must contribute to developing goals for the child. This may occur informally or during specific meetings. The phrase "goals" in this indicator does not refer specifically those outlined in an IFSP or IEP, but also includes more generalized developmental outcomes.

Indicator 5.1: If not observed the provider must provide examples of ways that they communicate with specialists and then implement the ideas.

Indicator 5.2: If a child spends much of his/her time away from the group requirements of this indicator are not met.

Indicator 5.3: Verbal or written communication with parents is required daily or almost daily.

Indicator 7.1: This indicator refers to intervention services provided by specialists who are not the child's primary teachers/care providers, unless the provider has received specific instruction from a specialist on necessary intervention techniques.