Purpose: This document is intended to assist programs in understanding many requirements of the Activities Subscale, particularly at the “good” level, in order to ensure that they are providing children with developmentally appropriate care. This worksheet does not cover every indicator related to the activities items; therefore, relying on this worksheet alone to prepare for an assessment will not be sufficient. This is a supplementary and optional activity that is intended to highlight some of the areas that are frequently missed. It is important to review the entire item, however, in order to ensure that no indicators at the 1 or “inadequate” level apply to the classroom, and that other requirements at the 3 or “minimal” and 7 “excellent” levels are met.

The Activities Subscale considers the many aspects of the early child care classroom pertaining to children’s play. The items in this subscale focus specifically on required areas, the types and quantities of materials used, the amount of time dedicated to play, and the interactions that occur while children are engaged in play with learning materials. The weight given to this subscale in calculating an average score supports the idea that free play with a variety of appropriate materials is critically important in fostering positive developmental outcomes for young children.

Preparation: In using the scale to promote best practices or to prepare for a Rated License Assessment visit, a basic understanding of the Rating Scale format is essential. Providers should ensure that teachers review the instructions on pages 5–6 in the ECERS-R and the definitions of common terms on pages 6–7. In addition, a copy of the most current NC Additional Notes (available at www.ncrlap.org) should be printed out and read along with each item while you fill out the worksheet.

As you document materials in the classroom, remember that assessors look at what is provided for children’s independent use. Having additional materials for rotation can help meet requirements at the highest level, but these are not considered in scoring the lower levels. Using the worksheet can help classify materials so that you can ensure that the required types and categories of materials are present as you rotate. If you are confused about a question in the worksheet, look at the item and notes and try to identify the requirement it relates to. Also, remember that assessors consider all materials in the classroom that fit into a specific category; not all materials have to be in a single area. For example, some math materials might be with fine motor materials, and others might be included with nature/science materials. You may also want to contact your Division of Child Development and Early Education licensing consultant or Child Care Resource & Referral and/or Smart Start Partnership technical assistance specialist for additional information.
Other questions to consider:

What topics are the children in your group most interested in? In what ways can you connect these interests to their play experiences in the various activity areas?

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

Which areas are the most popular? Why? Are there any areas that children tend not to use? Why? Can you make changes to these areas to make them more interesting to the children?

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

As you use the worksheet, answer the questions based on the specific schedule and materials in your classroom. Use the appropriate Rating Scale and NC Additional Notes as you go to help increase your understanding of the requirements.

**ITEM 15 (P. 34–35)**

The number of children enrolled in my class is_____.

My classroom includes ________ books that the children can independently use.

The children can use books during these times:

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

The total amount of time children can use books in a day is:

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

According to the Note for Clarification, I need _______ appropriate books out, including the following topics:

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

I read informally to individuals and/or small groups at the following times:

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
ITEM 19 (P. 39)

Here is a chart to track required materials in this item. Write the 4 categories across the top. List the materials in the classroom that the children use below each category.

<p>| | | | |</p>
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The children can use fine motor materials during these times:

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

The total amount of time children can use fine motor materials in a day is:

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

ITEM 20 (P. 40–41)

Here is a chart to track required materials in this item. Write the 5 categories across the top. List the materials in the classroom that the children use below each category.

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</table>

The children can use art materials during these times:

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

The total amount of time children can use art materials in a day is:

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
I facilitate the children expressing their own creativity in the following ways:

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

We use 3-D art materials in the following ways:

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

I connect art to other themes in the following ways:

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

ITEM 21 (P. 42–43)

Because of the age of the children in my group, the following music materials are out and can be used:

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

Types of music (CDs, tapes, etc.) used on a regular basis:

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

We plan music activities _________ times/week.

We do more special music activities in the following ways:

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

ITEM 22 (P. 44–45)

Types of blocks:

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

Types of block accessories:

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

I have space for _________ children to build in the block area.
Thinking More about Learning Materials: ECERS-R Worksheet

The children can use blocks during these times:
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

The total amount of time children can use blocks in a day is:
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

When in the block area, children engage in the following types of play:
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

**ITEM 23 (P. 46–47)**

Describe the following, including provisions, frequency, types of accessories, and activities done.

**Indoor sand play:**
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

**Outdoor sand play:**
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

**Indoor water play:**
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

**Outdoor water play:**
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

**ITEM 24 (P. 48–49)**

List dramatic play materials indoors:
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

The children can use dramatic play materials during these times:
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
The total amount of time children can use dramatic play materials in a day is:
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

List dramatic play outdoors:
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

I enhance dramatic play in the following ways:
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

ITEM 25 (P. 50–51)

Here is a chart to track required materials in this item. Write the 4 categories across the top. List the materials in the classroom that the children use below each category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category 1</th>
<th>Category 2</th>
<th>Category 3</th>
<th>Category 4</th>
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The children can use nature/science materials during these times:
____________________________________________________________________________________

The total amount of time children can use nature/science materials in a day is:
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

I use practical events to teach about nature and science in the following ways:
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

I plan and implement special nature/science activities including the following:
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
ITEM 26 (P. 52-53)

Here is a chart to track required materials in this item. Write the 5 categories across the top. List the materials in the classroom that the children use below each category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category 1</th>
<th>Category 2</th>
<th>Category 3</th>
<th>Category 4</th>
<th>Category 5</th>
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</thead>
</table>

The children can use math/number materials during these times:

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

The total amount of time children can use math/number materials in a day is:
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

I use practical events to teach about math/numbers in the following ways:
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

I plan and implement special math/number activities including the following:
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

ITEM 27 (P. 54-55)

Television/video programs used:
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

Computer programs used:
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

The total amount of time children can watch/use these programs is
TV/video___________
Computer___________
Thinking More about Learning Materials: ECERS-R Worksheet

While using TV, videos, or the computer, children participate in the following ways

TV/video: ______________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________

Computer: ______________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________

Children who are not interested can:
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________

I enhance these activities by:
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________

These programs are connected to other themes in the following ways

TV/video: ______________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________

Computer: ______________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________

ITEM 28 (P. 56-57)

Here is a chart to track required materials in this item. Write the 3 types of classroom materials across the top, and the required categories along the side.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATERIALS</th>
<th>CATEGORIES</th>
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I promote diversity in dramatic play in the following ways:
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

I include diversity in other areas in the following ways:
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

I plan and implement special activities to promote diversity, including the following:
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

RESOURCES
