



# FCCERS-R Materials List



This list includes the items and indicators in the FCCERS-R that require specific materials or furnishings<sup>i</sup>. Please keep in mind that simply having the materials and furnishings in the child care areas does not fulfill all the requirements for any item. Other considerations related to times when children are not able to use the materials, the repair, organization, and arrangement, along with specific types of interactions and planned activities impact not only an item's score, but also the benefit the materials offer to the children.

For all items, materials are required only for the age groups of children currently enrolled. For example, when requirements are specified for infants, these only apply if a child under 12 months of age is enrolled. In some cases, materials are appropriate for more than one age group and if so, will be counted for each age group.

Within each item and category of materials there are many, many options to choose from. Individualizing the materials based on children's interests and abilities is key when creating a stimulating environment for children. Below are common considerations programs use to meet material requirements and other key points to keep in mind when reviewing specific items:

**Teacher-made materials:** Purchasing all the materials may not be necessary. We often see teacher-made, repurposed, or donated materials that meet requirements for many items and indicators.

**Materials count in multiple items:** Notice that some types of materials can meet the requirements for different items. For example, art materials are considered in one category in the fine motor item and not only the art item. Often math materials or science puzzles and games stimulate fine motor skills and count in that item as well. Likewise, books that represent diversity, science, or math impact all relevant items.

**Rotating materials:** Swapping materials out regularly helps sustain interest.

**Planned activities:** Many items require planned activities related to the topic of the item at the 7 level. It is likely that offering planned activities will require at least some additional materials, but since there are so many possibilities it is not possible to list materials for these indicators. Determining what materials are needed will vary for each program and change over the course of the year.

While there are many items that require specific materials, FCCH programs typically include more than the numbers required in many of these items so this information should be viewed as minimum guidance (e.g., most programs include far more than 20 books or 3 puzzles). Additionally, not every typical early childhood or school-age material is included in the FCCERS-R, so carefully consider all materials currently included in a program when determining how to prioritize and refresh materials to best meet children's needs and interests. Having extra items beyond basic requirements is also wise, as materials may get lost or worn.

There may be times when decisions are made not to offer certain types of materials based on priorities, resources, and/or knowledge of the children. That is completely fine, and the FCCERS-R overall score is based on the average scores of all items using a 1–7-point range. This means that there is room for some items to score high and others to score lower, while still ending up with an overall good average score (5.0). Choices are fine and there is no expectation in our system that a high score will be earned on all items.

FCCERS-R Item/Page	3 Level Requirements	5 Level Requirements	7 Level Requirements
Item 2. Furniture for routine care, play, and learning (p. 16-17)	3.1 Enough furniture for routine care including for each child based on age including cubbies, cribs/cots/mats, diapering surface, table/chairs/highchairs 3.2 Enough shelves or other storage for accessible materials	5.1 Tables and chairs suitable to children's size(s) 5.3 Two examples of furnishings that support children's independence 5.5 Adult seating for use during routine care	7.1 Child sized table and chairs for toddlers and older children if enrolled 7.3 Comfortable adult seating for working with children during routines and play
Item 3. Provision for relaxation and comfort (p.18)	3.1 A rug or other soft furnishing 3.3 Three or more soft toys	5.1 Soft furnishings that provide a substantial amount of softness 5.3 At least 10 soft toys and at least 2 per child if more than 5 children enrolled	7.1 Additional soft furnishings in at least one other area 7.2 Soft child sized furnishings for each age group enrolled
Item 15. Using books (p. 34-35)	3.1 At least 6 appropriate books but no less than 3 for each age group enrolled	5.1 At least 12 appropriate books for each age group enrolled, but no less than two for each child in each age group 5.2 Books show people of varying races, ages, and abilities; animals; familiar experiences and include both fictional and factual information	n/a
Item 16. Fine motor (p. 36-37)	3.1 For infants and toddlers at least five different appropriate materials. For preschool and school-age at least two different materials from each category (manipulatives, interlocking/building toys; arts/crafts; puzzles)	5.1 For infants and toddlers at least 10 different appropriate materials For preschool and school age, at least three different appropriate materials from each category mentioned previously	7.2 Fine motor toys for rotation
Item 17. Art (p. 38-39) <i>*not required for children less than 12 months</i>	3.1. Drawing materials for toddlers and older children	5.1 Drawing materials for toddlers and older children 5.2 For preschool and older, at least two different materials from four categories (drawing materials, paints, 3-D materials, collage, tools)	7.1 For toddlers, at least three different drawing materials For preschool and older, at least three different materials from four categories 7.3 For preschool and older, 3-D art materials
Item 18. Music and Movement (p. 40)	3.1 At least two materials for each age group enrolled	5.1 At least 10 music materials with no fewer than three materials for each age group enrolled 5.4 A way to play recorded music	n/a
Item 19. Blocks (p. 41) <i>*not required for children less than 12 months or 8 years and older</i>	3.1 For toddlers, at least one set of six blocks of the same type For preschool and older at least 15 blocks of a specific type 3.2 At least five block accessories of at least two different types	5.1 For toddlers, a set of 12 blocks For preschoolers and older, a set of at least 30 blocks At least three accessories for each age group enrolled and enough to reduce competition while allowing for complex play	7.1 Two sets of different types of blocks for each age group (toddlers = two sets of 12; preschool and early school age, two sets of 30 blocks) 7.2 Block accessories including transportation toys, people, animals

Item 20. Dramatic play (p. 42-43)	3.1 Some materials to carry out meaningful dramatic play 3.2 Some appropriate materials for each age group	5.1 For infants and toddlers enough dramatic play materials for age appropriate, meaningful choices including dress up clothes for toddlers For preschoolers and older children, materials for at least two themes, including dress up clothes for preschoolers 5.4 For toddlers and preschool, some child-sized dramatic play furniture	7.1 At least 2 examples of materials that represent diversity 7.2 Materials for toddlers and older for active dramatic play outdoors or in another large area
Item 21. Math/number (p. 44-45)	3.1 Two different materials related to number and two different materials related to shape for each age group enrolled	5.1 Five different materials for each age group	7.1 Math materials for rotation 7.2 Planned math/number activities for preschool and older
Item 22. Nature/science (p. 46-47)	3.1 At least two nature/science pictures, books, games, or toys for each age group enrolled	5.1 For preschool and older, at least nine different materials representing 3 of 4 categories (collections of natural objects, living things, nature/science books, pictures, games, or toys; nature/science tools) 5.2 Provisions for outdoor experiences with nature 5.3 Indoor living plants or animals	7.3 Planned nature/science activities for preschool and older
Item 23. Sand and water play (p. 48-49) <i>*Not required for children less than 18 months</i>	3.1 Provisions for sand or water play indoors or outdoors 3.3 At least two toys for sand/water play.	5.1 Provisions for sand or water play indoors or outdoors 5.2 Variety of sand/water toys of different types	7.1 Provisions for sand or water play indoors or outdoors 7.2 Provisions for different activities with sand and/or water (different sensory play materials or materials/activities for rotation)
Item 24. Promoting acceptance of diversity (p. 50-51)	3.1 At least three examples of racial/cultural diversity in books, pictures, or materials	5.1 At least three books, three pictures, and three materials showing diverse people. All categories of diversity included (race, culture, ages, abilities, and gender in non-stereotyping roles) 5.2 At least four dramatic play props representing races/cultures	7.3 Planned activities to promote understanding and acceptance of diversity
Item 26. Active physical play (p. 54-55)	3.3 At least two appropriate gross motor materials/equipment for each age group or ability level	5.3 Enough gross motor materials/equipment to provide meaningful choices and prevent competition for each age group enrolled	7.4 Gross motor equipment that stimulates 7-9 skills for toddlers and older
Item 32. Free play (p. 61) <i>*Considers all materials including those required for other items</i>	3.3 Adequate toys, materials, and equipment for free play	5.3 Ample and varied toys, materials, and equipment for free play	7.2 Toys for rotation

Harms, T. Clifford, R., & Cryer, D. (2007). *Family child care environment rating scale*. (Revised edition). New York, NY: Teachers College Press.

<sup>i</sup> There is also a technology item, but it is optional and not required to use TV, video, computers, or any device with a screen. In North Carolina's licensed child care programs this is not permitted for children under two years of age. If the choice is made to use technology with children, review item 25 to see the requirements.