

Environment Self-Certification During Pandemic Conditions

Program Self-Evaluation 2020-21

California Department of Education, March 2021

Directions: Following guidance from **Use of the Environment Rating Scales during Pandemic Conditions**, located on the Environment Rating Scales Institute (ERSI) website at <https://www.ersi.info/>, the Environment Rating Scale (ERS) should not be used under pandemic conditions to assess the quality of a program in an official assessment in which the average overall quality of the program is determined. For Fiscal Year 20–21, early learning and care (ELC) programs must complete the following questionnaire in lieu of completing an entire ERS assessment to describe how the program/family child care home has adapted their environment to meet health and safety guidelines while providing quality learning experiences for the children in the program. Complete a minimum of one (1) self-certification per direct service contract held.

Classroom/ Family Child Care Home MVWSD Preschool Program

Personal Care Routines

How is the program/provider ensuring that correct handwashing and sanitizing/disinfecting procedures are carried out adequately?

All staff were trained prior to reopening on proper handwashing and sanitizing/disinfecting procedures. Our reopening process included planning meetings where classroom teams discussed individual staff schedules, roles, and responsibilities in maintaining safe and clean routines and procedures. Automatic faucets and paper towel dispensers were installed in each classroom and child-friendly, digital timers are available to help students time 20 seconds of lathering. +

Activities

How does the program/provider allow free use of materials that all children touch?

All students have two baskets of materials to use each day. One basket has everyday items such as playdough, markers, crayons, and scissors. The other basket contains manipulatives relevant to student interests and learning objectives/activities for the week. These materials are disinfected at the end of each week and replaced with new items for the following week.

Space and Furnishings

What modifications have been made to the interest areas to ensure children have access to a variety of age appropriate materials while maintaining physical (social) distancing guidelines?

Teachers have created mini-interest areas in baskets and trays that are brought to individual children in their designated work space and are disinfected when the child is done. Materials are regularly rotated and refreshed.

Program Structure

How does the program/provider offer opportunities for children to engage in small group and large group activities while maintaining physical (social) distancing guidelines?

Due to low student numbers in-person, teachers have been able to accommodate socially distanced large group gatherings (with designated foam mats that are disinfected daily). Small groups of children (2 -3) sit with teachers at tables that are appropriately spaced and have plastic screens between students for further protection.

Interactions

How are the staff/provider(s) continuing to be responsive to and involved with the children while maintaining physical (social) distancing guidelines?

We have been able to have three staff members in each classroom with 10 students or less. There are plenty of adults to attend to student needs. Teachers support and encourage students from a distance when appropriate, while masked and wearing face guards. If a child needs support in closer proximity, the teachers provide it but limit their time in close contact with the child (toileting, emotional support, etc).

I certify that the above information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.



Authorized Representative

Director, Preschool Program

Title

5/14/21

Date