

5 OUTDOOR PLAY

Children need to play outdoors every day unless weather conditions are really harsh or dangerous. Outdoor play should offer a change of pace and an opportunity to “let off steam.” It is important to allow movement, louder and more boisterous play, and physical challenges geared to the ages and stages of each child in care. It is also important to stimulate children’s senses and their appreciation of nature, so planning interesting and engaging activities will make outdoor play more meaningful. Many favorite indoor activities are also fun when offered outdoors.

5.2 YARD PROVIDES FOR AT LEAST 75 SQUARE FEET PER CHILD

0 1 2 3 4 N/A PR!

COMMENTS: _____

5.3 YARD HAS CLEAR SIGHTLINES & THERE ARE NO HIDDEN AREAS TO HINDER SUPERVISION

0 1 2 3 4 N/A PR!

COMMENTS: _____

OUTDOOR PLAY AT HOME

5.1 YARD IS FENCED OR SAFELY ENCLOSED

RATING: 0 1 2 3 4 N/A PR!

COMMENTS: _____

5.4 YARD HAS AREAS WITH BOTH SUN & SHADE

0 1 2 3 4 N/A PR!

COMMENTS: _____




5.2 YARD IS SAFE

- There are no hazards such as broken glass, animal waste, nails, poisonous plants, standing water, etc.
- Trash can is secured, away from play area
- Lawnmower, other tools are stored securely
- If chain link fence is used, no potential hazards (dog, poisonous plant, etc.) are within reach on other side
- First aid supplies are available
- Phone is available

RATING: 0 1 2 3 4 N/A PR!

COMMENTS: _____

KEY

0 Does not exist in the center, but should	1 Inadequate: requires improvement or repair	2 Fair: should be improved	3 Good: good quality or in good condition	4 Excellent: first-rate or top quality	N/A Not applicable: doesn't apply to the home	PR! Priority! Don't forget to identify priority items	 Health & Safety	 Center Quality	 Maintenance, Repair & Aesthetics
--	--	--------------------------------------	---	--	---	---	---	--	--

5.6

PLAY AREAS FOR INFANTS & TODDLERS ARE AVAILABLE, PROTECTED FROM OLDER CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

RATING: 0 1 2 3 4 N/A PR!

COMMENTS: _____

5.7

PLAY EQUIPMENT IS SAFE, STURDY & IN GOOD REPAIR

RATING: 0 1 2 3 4 N/A PR!

COMMENTS: _____

5.8

PLAY AREA HAS DIFFERENT TYPES OF SURFACING, INCLUDING GRASS, AREA FOR RIDING TOYS & APPROPRIATE FALL SURFACING UNDER EQUIPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION PLAYGROUND SAFETY HANDBOOK.

Play area surface does not feature materials that are hazardous if ingested such as small chips, bark, fiber, or gravel. Mats, tiles, & pour surfaces are well-maintained to prevent tripping hazards

RATING: 0 1 2 3 4 N/A PR!

COMMENTS: _____

5.9

PLAY AREA HAS CLEAR PATHWAYS SO CHILDREN CAN MOVE THROUGH THE YARD SAFELY & WITHOUT INTERFERING WITH OTHER CHILDREN'S PLAY




RATING: 0 1 2 3 4 N/A PR!

COMMENTS: _____



0 1 2 3 4 N/A PR!

KEY

0 Does not exist in the center, but should	1 Inadequate: requires improvement or repair	2 Fair: should be improved	3 Good: good quality or in good condition	4 Excellent: first-rate or top quality	N/A Not applicable: doesn't apply to the home	PR! Priority! Don't forget to identify priority items	 Health & Safety	 Center Quality	 Maintenance, Repair & Aesthetics
--	--	--------------------------------------	---	--	---	---	---	--	--

5.10 

RANGE OF OUTDOOR PLAY OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE

Sand & water
Dramatic play
Climbing
Art

Gardening
Group games, running, jumping
Riding toys

RATING: 0 1 2 3 4 N/A PR!


COMMENTS: _____

5.11  

PLAY EQUIPMENT IS AGE-APPROPRIATE

RATING: 0 1 2 3 4 N/A PR!

COMMENTS: _____

5.12 

STORAGE IS PROVIDED FOR OUTDOOR TOYS

RATING: 0 1 2 3 4 N/A PR!

COMMENTS: _____

5.13 

IF WADING POOLS ARE USED, THEY ARE EMPTIED & SANITIZED DAILY & SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES

RATING: 0 1 2 3 4 N/A PR!

COMMENTS: _____

5.14  

DRINKING WATER IS AVAILABLE

RATING: 0 1 2 3 4 N/A PR!

COMMENTS: _____

5.15  

IF THERE ARE LARGE POOLS IN THE YARD, THEY ARE FENCED & SECURED

RATING: 0 1 2 3 4 N/A PR!

COMMENTS: _____

OUTDOOR PLAY – AWAY FROM HOME

5.16  

STROLLERS OR WAGONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR TRANSPORTING YOUNGER CHILDREN

RATING: 0 1 2 3 4 N/A PR!

COMMENTS: _____

5.17 

THERE IS A PORTABLE EMERGENCY KIT WITH WATER, FIRST AID SUPPLIES, SUNSCREEN, DIAPER SUPPLIES, EMERGENCY NUMBERS, CELL PHONE & MONEY

RATING: 0 1 2 3 4 N/A PR!

COMMENTS: _____

KEY

0
Does not exist in the center, but should

1
Inadequate: requires improvement or repair

2
Fair: should be improved

3
Good: good quality or in good condition

4
Excellent: first-rate or top quality

N/A
Not applicable: doesn't apply to the home

PR!
Priority! Don't forget to identify priority items

 Health & Safety

 Center Quality

 Maintenance, Repair & Aesthetics