

Can Your Child Care Setting Meet the Environmental Challenge?

How well does your child care setting meet the environmental needs of infants and toddlers? Rate each of the following environmental factors:

	Not Well			Very Well
Uses soft, neutral colors	1	2	3	4
Has a mixture of natural and other appropriate lighting	1	2	3	4
Has plenty of fresh air	1	2	3	4
Reduces noise with carpeting, acoustic tiles, and fabrics	1	2	3	4
Provides contact with nature	1	2	3	4
Contains multi-level areas	1	2	3	4
Provides convenient, accessible storage	1	2	3	4
Is organized around an open center	1	2	3	4
Offers separate activity areas	1	2	3	4
Contains child-sized and adult-sized furnishings	1	2	3	4
Provides "alone" space for children	1	2	3	4
Displays a changing array of a few toys	1	2	3	4

How did your setting do?

- 36-48: You've gotten the environment well organized. Keep up the good work!
- 24-35: You've made a start, but there's room for improvement. Pick one or two elements where you've given yourself a low score, and concentrate on doing those well.
- 12-23: Your environment needs help! Imagine being an infant or toddler spending the day there. Start with an easy goal, like displaying only a few toys at a time or going for a daily walk. Move on gradually to more costly or challenging elements.