

**Revised Criteria and Guidance for Assessment
Effective April 1, 2017
NAEYC Early Learning Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria**

Purpose

Twice a year, the NAEYC Accreditation of Early Learning Programs issues *Revised Guidance for Assessment*, a supplement to *NAEYC Early Learning Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria*. These documents communicated criterion guidance that changed over the previous 6 months. Rarely, minor changes in the language of criteria were included.

For this revision cycle, this document is titled *Revised Criteria and Guidance for Assessment*. In October 2016 NAEYC’s Council for Accreditation approved an update of **criteria and guidance** related to best practices in environmental health. **Sixteen existing criteria have changes and additions to criteria, guidance, or both. Four entirely new criteria have been added in Standard 9.** Unless otherwise indicated in a rationale below, the criteria and guidance changes in this document are related to these updates to environmental health practices.

When developing and revising criteria or guidance, the NAEYC Accreditation of Early Learning Programs takes into account questions and feedback from early childhood programs, NAEYC Assessors, and key stakeholders, as well as internal analysis of data collected on visits. Revised criteria and guidance also aligns the NAEYC Accreditation’s assessment practices with [Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards \(Third Edition\)](#), which details current best practice regarding health and safety in child care.

Format

New or revised language for a criterion, indicator or guidance appears in **bold text**.

How these changes will be evaluated during NAEYC Accreditation Site Visits

Entirely new criteria, entirely new indicators within an existing criterion, or substantially changed existing indicators are considered “Emerging Practices” and are labeled as such. When Emerging Practice criteria or indicators are assessed on a site visit, the program is given credit if they are met, but is not penalized if they are not met.

The revisions included in this document will go into effect on April 1, 2017. However, programs being assessed by NAEYC’s current site visit assessment will not be assessed on these changes at this time. Programs in the May 2017 Candidacy/Renewal cohort that have signed up to pilot NAEYC’s new streamlined site visit assessment will be assessed on several of these practices, and have been told which ones will appear in the site visit tools.

2.K.01	T-P-K	Random	O, CP
a	Children are provided varied opportunities and materials that encourage good health practices such as serving and feeding themselves, rest, good nutrition, washing fruits and vegetables before consumption , exercise, hand washing, and tooth brushing.		
<i>Opportunities for children to wash fruits and vegetables can take place during gardening, cooking or tasting projects. "Varied" means two or more. Look for two or more examples of <u>different</u> health practices, such as exercise AND nutrition. Conversations about these things can be evidence of opportunity. Evidence may include such things as books, posters, lesson plans, posted schedules, and materials that address the benefits of good health practices.</i>			

2.L.08	P-K	Random	O, CP
Children are provided varied opportunities and materials to learn how people affect their environment in			
a	Positive (e.g., recycling) and		
b	Negative (e.g., polluting) ways.		
c	The program creates opportunities to educate families on eco-healthy practices. <i>(This indicator is an Emerging Practice)</i>		
<i>Evidence could include conversations teachers have with families and children about positive and negative consequences of littering and recycling. Evidence could also include books, posters, displays, and lesson plans that address these issues, a classroom recycling program, efforts to reduce pollution and/or energy use, planning and/or planting a garden, field trips to local parks to collect litter or visit a recycling center.</i> <i>"Varied" means more than one.</i>			

5.A.03	I-T-P-K	Required	TS, PP, O
a	At least one staff member who has a certificate showing satisfactory completion of pediatric first-aid training and satisfactory completion of pediatric CPR is always present with each class of children.		

5.A.03	I-T-P-K	Required	TS, PP, O
<p><i>At least one staff member who meets both components of criterion 5.A.03 must be present throughout the entire observation. Parents or other volunteers will not be counted as staff and cannot be considered in meeting this requirement. Take note of all staff members who are present with children throughout each class observation. During the Program Portfolio review, review documentation of appropriate training for 5.A.03 for those staff members who were present with children throughout (each of) the class observation(s).</i></p> <p><i>Use the 5.A.03 Worksheet and the list of staff members present during each observation to rate this criterion. Look for evidence:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. That a first-aid course has been completed, and</i> <i>2. That the staff member is currently certified in CPR (including a pediatric or infant and/or child component).</i> <p><i>If the documentation does not include this information, programs must supply additional documentation indicating that these topics were covered in the training. The documentation must be issued from the course or course instructor and can include an agenda, course description, letter from the trainer or issuing organization, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Documentation must be specific to individuals and could be in the form of individual cards or certificates, documentation of an individual’s successful completion of an online training course, or a record of staff that attended and successfully completed a suitable training course. A blanket policy that all staff are required to hold current trainings that meet 5.A.03 is <u>not</u> sufficient.</i></p> <p><i>Ideal evidence would include classroom staffing patterns, in conjunction with staff first-aid and CPR training records, to document compliance with this required criterion.</i></p> <p><i>This criterion does not specify how frequently the training would occur but the certification must be current. If the certificate indicates that the certification has expired, then the training(s) would not meet this criterion.</i></p> <p><i>A first aid course and a CPR self-learning program for infants and/or children (i.e., kit with practice manikin or online course) followed by a demonstration skills assessment by a qualified instructor meets this criterion if the program provides documentation that the staff member successfully passed the assessment. For criterion 5.A.03 to be met, a staff member who has appropriate training for criterion 5.A.03 is always present with each class of children. Exceptions are noted below:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• A class of children can be left in the care of an adult who does not have appropriate training for criterion 5.A.03 for no more than five minutes. For example, if the adult with appropriate training for criterion 5.A.03 needed to step into the hallway to speak privately to a parent or leave the class to use the restroom, the adult must return within five minutes or another adult with appropriate training for criterion 5.A.03 must join the class within five minutes.</i> <i>• When a teaching staff member who meets 5.A.03 must leave the class, an “other adult” who meets 5.A.03 may cover for that teaching staff member for up to 20 minutes. During that 20 minute period, the class would still meet 5.A.03.</i> <i>• Teacher/student one-on-one pairings (for purposes such as occupational therapy, physical therapy, or speech therapy) do not constitute a class; the adult does not need to have appropriate training for criterion 5.A.03.therapy) do not constitute a class; the adult does not need to have appropriate training for criterion 5.A.03.</i> 			
<p><i>This is a required criterion. If a child is in immediate danger, assessors must immediately notify the program administrator and contact the NAEYC Academy. If the assessor determines that this criterion is not fully met during the observation, Assessors MUST list it on the Missing Evidence Request Form (MERF) for the Program Portfolio Source of Evidence. If the criterion is still not fully met after the program responds to the MERF, assessors must note this on the Required Criterion Report Form. This form is shared with the program administrator at the Closing Meeting, at which point the Program Administrator will be given a chance to respond in writing directly on the Required Criterion Report Form; OR choose not to respond during the site visit by checking the appropriate box on the form; AND/OR provide additional contextual information to the NAEYC Academy within 30 business days of the site visit.</i></p>			
5.A.06	I-T-P-K	Random	O, TS, PP
a	Children of all ages have daily opportunities for outdoor play (when weather, air quality, and environmental safety conditions do not pose a health risk).		

5.A.06	I-T-P-K	Random	O, TS, PP
	<p><i>If children do not go outside to play during the observation, posted daily schedules or other material evidence may be used to rate this indicator. If you see no outside play AND no schedule or other evidence that the children get fresh air, rate 'No'. Check Air Quality Index (AQI) daily at www.airnow.gov. During unhealthy AQI days strenuous outdoor activities are avoided, or children stay indoors.</i></p>		
b	<p>Vehicles (buses as well as parents' automobiles) do not idle in the program's parking areas. <i>(This indicator is an Emerging Practice)</i></p>		
	<p><i>Vehicles may need to idle in extreme temperatures in order to heat or cool car systems or interiors. Unnecessary idling should be discouraged.</i></p>		
c	<p>When outdoor opportunities for large-motor activities are not possible because of conditions, the program provides similar activities inside.</p>		
	<p><i>Evidence could include an indoor gross motor space, schedule, posted policy, handbook and memos. Rate 'NoOpp' if the class goes outside during observation and there is not a dedicated indoor gross motor space.</i></p>		
d	<p>Indoor equipment for large-motor activities meets national safety standards and is supervised at the same level as outdoor equipment.</p>		
	<p><i>Rate 'N/A' if there is no indoor equipment. Indoor equipment should be arranged in a way that provides for the safety of the children, including spacing and flooring (e.g., climbers not on hard floor). Written evidence should include evidence that the stationary indoor play equipment meets national safety standards as recommended by Caring for our Children (CFOC). Programs should follow manufacturers' instructions regarding the installation, use, care, and maintenance of any large motor play structures including a supervision plan for indoor gross motor play.</i></p>		

5.A.07	I-T-P-K	Random	PP
To protect against cold, heat, sun injury, and insect-borne disease, the program ensures that:			
a	Children wear clothing that is dry and layered for warmth in cold weather.		
<i>Rate 'N/A' if written evidence indicates that the program is located in an area that does not have cold weather.</i>			
b	Children have the opportunity to play in the shade. When in the sun, they wear sun-protective clothing, applied skin protection, or both. Applied skin protection will be either non-aerosol sunscreen or sun block with UVB and UVA protection of SPF 15 or higher that is applied to exposed skin (only with written parental permission to do so).		
<p><i>Shaded areas are not required during the winter months (November through March) when and if children wear clothing, including hats and gloves, to cover their skin.</i></p> <p><i>Evidence could include your program's sun safety policies and procedures reflecting these best practices.</i></p> <p><i><u>Sun-protective clothing</u>: clothing made with fabrics rated for ultraviolet protection, or clothing that protects skin areas most prone to sun damage.</i></p> <p><i><u>Examples of sun-protective clothing</u>: broad-brim hats, long sleeve shirts, full-length pants/skirts.</i></p> <p><i>Sunscreen that protects against both UVA and UVB radiation and is SPF 15 or higher is also referred to as 'broad-spectrum' sunscreen. See http://www.fda.gov/downloads/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/UCM258910.pdf</i></p>			
c	When public health authorities recommend use of insect repellents due to a high risk of insect-borne disease, only repellents containing DEET are used, and these are applied only on children over 2 months of age. Staff apply insect repellent no more than once a day and only with written parental permission.		
<p><i>Rate 'N/A' if portfolio contains evidence that public health authority does NOT recommend use of insect repellents.</i></p> <p><i>Rate as 'Yes' only if portfolio contains evidence supporting ALL aspects of the policy: (1) only DEET or an acceptable alternative approved by the public health authority; (2) only over 2 months of age; (3) no more than 1x/day; and (4) need written parental permission. Evidence for (2) is not needed if the program does not serve infants.</i></p> <p><i>When using an alternative to DEET, include documentation in the PP of what is being used as well as documentation that the alternative has been approved and is applicable for the age of the child(ren) it is being used.</i></p> <p><i>Do not use a product that combines sunscreen and insect repellent. For more information, see https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-play/Pages/Insect-Repellents.aspx</i></p>			

5.B.03	I-T-P-K	Random	PP
The program takes steps to ensure food safety in its provision and preparation of drinks , meals and snacks.			
a	All fresh fruits and vegetables are thoroughly washed prior to eating, to avoid possible exposure to pesticides and bacteria. (This indicator is an Emerging Practice)		
b	Staff discard foods with expired dates.		
c	No imported, old or handmade pottery is used to cook, store, or serve food or drinks. (This indicator is an Emerging Practice)		
<p><i>For information about how much lead can leach from lead-glazed pottery.</i></p> <p><i>http://californiaagriculture.ucanr.org/landingpage.cfm?article=ca.v053n05p20&fulltext=yes</i></p>			
d	Staff never use plastic or polystyrene (Styrofoam™) containers, plates, bags, or wraps when microwaving children's food or beverages. (This indicator is an Emerging Practice)		
e	Staff choose and use dish wares (including baby bottles, sippy cups, and drinking cups) made of glass (covered with a silicone sleeve to prevent breakage) or polypropylene/polyethylene options. (This indicator is an Emerging Practice)		

5.B.03	I-T-P-K	Random	PP
	<i>Bisphenol A (BPA) is a hormone-disrupting chemical used to make polycarbonate plastic (hard clear plastic). BPA and sister chemicals such as: BPS and BPF can be found in baby bottles, water bottles, canned food liners, and sippy cups. Human exposure occurs primarily through ingestion: diet, sucking/mouthing plastics, and dermal contact. Adverse health effects include prostate cancer, breast cancer, miscarriages, birth defects, early puberty, low sperm count, hyperactivity and aggressiveness.</i>		
f	Staff discard plastic, ceramic or glass dishes and containers that are chipped, cracked or scratched. (This indicator is an Emerging Practice)		
g	The program documents compliance and any corrections that it has made according to the recommendations of the program's health consultant, nutrition consultant, or a sanitarian that reflect consideration of federal and other applicable food safety standards.		
	<p><i>Rate this indicator "No" if the program does not have a health consultant, nutrition consultant or sanitarian.</i></p> <p><i><u>Sanitarian</u>: a specialist in public sanitation and health.</i></p> <p><i>An individual with a degree in nutrition could also meet this indicator. The health consultant, nutrition consultant, or sanitarian should be should be incorporating federal (U.S. Food and Drug Administration) and all applicable state and local food safety standards.</i></p> <p><i>Evidence in the Program Portfolio could include a policy about food safety, a checklist for maintaining food safety, a consultant agreement, etc.</i></p>		

5.C.01	I-T-P-K	Random	O, PP
a	The routine frequency of cleaning and sanitizing all surfaces in the facility is as indicated in the Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting Frequency Table .		
	<p><i>Rate 'Yes' if classroom space overall (floors, walls, restroom and kitchen surfaces) appears clean.</i></p> <p><i>A contract with a cleaning service documenting the responsibilities and frequencies for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting is acceptable to demonstrate that some of the components on the table are met including some of the weekly and daily tasks. Responsibilities not covered by the contract should be documented as well.</i></p> <p><i>Refer to the Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting Frequency Table (Revised October 2016).</i></p> <p><i>In order to meet this indicator, all items on the Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting Frequency Table must be complete.</i></p> <p><i>Cleaning is physically removing all dirt and contamination, oftentimes using soap and water. Sanitizing is reducing germs on inanimate surfaces to levels considered safe by public health codes or regulations.</i></p> <p><i>Disinfecting is destroying or inactivating most germs on any inanimate object, but not bacterial spores. Carpet cleaning must be consistent with local health regulations. Check with the local health department or licensing agency to determine what regulations, if any, apply in your community.</i></p>		
b	When cleaning, fragrance-free, 3rd party certified (www.ecologo.org, www.epa.gov/saferchoice, OR www.greenseal.org), least-toxic products are used. (This indicator is an Emerging Practice)		
c	Chlorine bleach and other disinfecting and sanitizing products are EPA-registered, used only for their intended purpose, and in strict accordance with all label instructions. (This indicator is an Emerging Practice)		
d	Chlorine bleach solution is mixed fresh daily. Concentration and bleach/water solution ratio is posted. (This indicator is an Emerging Practice)		
	<i>A postable guide for mixing bleach solutions is found at http://here.doh.wa.gov/materials/guidelines-for-bleach-solutions/13_Disinfect_E15L.pdf</i>		
e	Ventilation and cleaning are used, rather than sprays, air freshening chemicals, or deodorizers, to disperse odors in inhabited areas of the facility and in custodial closets. Scented or unscented candles and air fresheners are not used, and use of personal fragrances is discouraged. (This indicator is an Emerging Practice)		
	<p><i>Give credit for proper ventilation if no odors are detected and there is no evidence of sprays.</i></p> <p><i><u>Examples of air fresheners</u>: potpourri, plug-ins, essential oils, incense, sprays, diffusers, mists.</i></p>		

5.C.01	I-T-P-K	Random	O, PP
<p><i>Routine cleaning with detergent and water is the most useful method for removing germs from surfaces in the child care setting. Safer cleaning products are not only less-toxic and environmentally safer, but they also often cost less or the same as conventional cleaners. Green Seal, UL/EcoLogo, and EPA’s Safer Choice research and certify cleaning products that are biodegradable and environmentally friendly. Visit www.greenaseal.org, www.ecologo.org, and/or www.epa.gov/saferchoice to verify whether the cleaning products you use are safe, healthy and effective.</i></p>			

9.A.03	I-T-P-K	Random	O
a	Non-disposable materials are durable and in good repair.		
	<i>Non-disposable materials include anything that does not get used and disposed of. Rate ‘Yes’ if equipment, materials and furnishings like tables, chairs, pillows, changing table pads, nap mats, rugs, toys, gross motor equipment, etc. are not frayed, broken, chipped, peeling, etc. Foam-containing products and furniture have no exposed foam or stuffing.</i>		
b	Furniture is made of solid wood or low-VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) products, rather than items made of engineered wood such as plywood, particle board, or medium-density fiberboard. (This indicator is an Emerging Practice)		
	<i>Outdoor wood furniture (picnic tables, benches) and play equipment must not be treated with Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA), a wood preservative.</i>		
c	Equipment, materials, and furnishings are available that provide access for children with disabilities to the program's curriculum and activities.		
	<i>Rate ‘N/A’ if there are no children with identified special needs enrolled in the class or if the identified special needs in the class do not require this type of accommodation.</i>		

NEW CRITERION -- 9.A.16	ITPK	Emerging	O, PP
Staff select and use equipment, materials and furnishings that are environmentally healthy			
a	Floors are covered with easy-to-clean, eco-healthy surfaces.		
	<i>Examples of eco-healthy surfaces include hardwood, linoleum, and no- or low-VOC laminate flooring. Vinyl flooring is not eco-healthy. If flooring needs to be glued to the subfloor, it is done so using no or low-VOC adhesive.</i>		
b	The program does not have permanently installed carpeting.		
c	Art supplies are non-toxic.		
	<i>Only use non-toxic art supplies certified by the Art and Creative Materials Institute (ACMI). Look for ACMI non-toxic Approved Product (AP) seal at www.acminet.org.</i>		
d	Toys are screened for lead, phthalates and other hazards.		
	<i>Program staff search websites (Example: www.cpsc.gov) to confirm products are safer options.</i>		
e	Soft toys are labeled “PVC-free” or “phthalate-free”.		
	<i>Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) is a type of soft plastic vinyl. Toys made out of PVC (e.g., soft vinyl dolls, beach balls, bath books, “rubber duckies”, and chew toys) should be avoided as they likely contain lead (neurotoxicant) and phthalates (a known endocrine disrupter). Note that not all vinyl is PVC. Vinyl products made from ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA) or polyethylene vinyl acetate (PEVA) are safer choices than those with PVC.</i>		
f	Digital thermometers and thermostats are used in the facility. Mercury-containing options are not used.		
g	The program signs up to receive Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) product recall notices, and posts relevant notices in the center for both parents and staff.		
	<i>Sign up at https://www.cpsc.gov/Newsroom/Subscribe/; select “Recalls involving infant/child products”.</i>		

NEW CRITERION -- 9.B.08	I-T-P-K	Emerging	PP
<i>Rate entire criterion 'N/A' if the program does not have its own playground.</i>			
a	Outdoor wooden structures (including play structures, picnic tables, and benches) are made of wood that has not been treated with Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA). Alternatively, if wooden equipment has been treated with CCA, two coats of waterproof, penetrating stain or sealant is applied at least once a year if oil-based, and at least every six months if water-based and/or if structure is regularly used in a heavy traffic area.		
<i>The wood in pre-2004 playground sets, picnic tables, benches, mulch and decks can contain potentially hazardous levels of arsenic due to the use of Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) as a wood preservative and insecticide. The EPA-registered CCA solution which is used to treat wood contains up to 30% arsenic. Due to health concerns, CCA was phased out for residential uses in 2004. Children who regularly spend time on treated structures built prior to 2005 could potentially be exposed to arsenic (e.g., by putting their hands in their mouths after playing on treated structures), but such exposures may be avoided or reduced by following the recommendations listed on EHCC's Arsenic Fact Sheet and EHCC's FAQ resource.</i>			

9.C.07	I-T-P-K	Always	O
<i>Rate all indicators on this tool with respect to the current class's environments (indoors and outdoors) only. Rate all indicators with respect to the program's common spaces only, including playgrounds. Assume spaces are potentially accessible to children if they are unlocked and unstaffed at the time of your observation.</i>			
The building is well maintained:			
a	Walls, floors, furnishings, the outdoor play area, and equipment are kept in good repair and are safe, with no sharp edges, flaking or peeling paint, chipping floor tiles, peeling or deteriorating caulk, splinters, protruding or rusty nails, or missing parts.		
b	All areas, both indoors and outdoors, are free from glass, trash, sharp or hazardous items, and visible soil, and are in a clean condition.		
c	Staff observe all areas of the facility, both indoors and outdoors, and take steps to correct or avoid unsafe conditions.		
<i>Rate as 'NoOpp' if no unsafe conditions (indoors and outdoors) are observed.</i>			

9.C.13	I-T-P-K	Random	PP
Painting, carpeting, floor installation or refinishing, or other renovations			
a	consider possible sources of contamination (such as lead, PCBs or asbestos) in older facilities; (This indicator is an Emerging Practice)		
b	are not performed when children are present. (This indicator is an Emerging Practice)		
c	When interiors are painted, only no-VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) or low-VOC household paints are used. (This indicator is an Emerging Practice)		
d	Areas that have been recently painted, carpeted, tiled, or otherwise renovated are ventilated before they are used by children.		
<i>Consider painting or carpeting on or just before a weekend, to allow several days for ventilation before use. Examples of evidence could be, but are not limited to, a policy or picture with a narrative describing what the program did when the program had been painted, carpeted, tiled or otherwise renovated; or a memo to or from contractors specifying dates, times, and conditions around renovations that avoid child exposure to chemicals.</i>			

NEW CRITERION -- 9.C.18		I-T-P-K	Emerging	PP, O
a	The program has implemented comprehensive recycling for paper, cardboard, glass, aluminum, and plastics to the extent these are supported by local waste management laws and infrastructure.			
b	Used batteries and fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs are securely stored and recycled at a local hazardous waste facility.			
<p><i>These products may contain mercury, which is a neurotoxicant. For this reason, programs may wish to consider use of LED lights instead of compact fluorescent bulbs.</i></p> <p><i>Mercury released from a broken fluorescent light bulb will not be visible, while drops from a broken thermometer will be visible. A program should have a minimum of one complete and labelled mercury spill kit accessible at all times. It should be stored in a central location in the facility, but inaccessible to children. For any type of mercury spill, immediately contact the national poison center for clean-up instructions, support and resources; national toll free number: 1-800-222-1222. Child care staff should not attempt to clean-up large mercury spills, which is equal to "more than the amount found in a thermometer". EPA info on cleaning up spills is found at www.epa.gov/mercury/spills</i></p>				

9.D.01		I-T-P-K	Not Currently Assessed: Best Practice	
a	Documentary evidence, available on site, indicates that the building has been assessed by a licensed professional for lead hazards, radon, radiation, asbestos, fiberglass, or any other hazard from friable material. Evidence exists that the program has taken remedial or containment action to prevent exposure to children and adults if warranted by the assessment. <i>(This indicator is an Emerging Practice)</i>			
<p><i>Programs should be aware that artificial turf contains lead, which can be released as dust if the turf deteriorates over time. For more information see https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/federal-research-recycled-tire-crumbs-used-playing-fields</i></p>				
b	If warranted by the assessment, evidence exists that the program has taken remedial or containment action to prevent exposure to children and adults.			
c	<p>For buildings that have lead-based paint, federal EPA requirements are followed before any painting, remodeling, renovations or repairs that will disturb paint.</p> <p><i>(This indicator is an Emerging Practice)</i></p>			
<p><i>Lead, radon, radiation, asbestos, and fiberglass have all been identified as potentially hazardous. Friable materials are easily crumbled or reduced to powder, increasing the potential for inhalation. Recognizing variations in local context, programs are advised to seek guidance from local authorities to identify environmental issues potentially hazardous in the area, appropriate forms of testing, and necessary steps for remediation.</i></p> <p>Detailed guidance can be found in EPA "Renovate Right" Brochure.</p> <p><i>Visit www.epa.gov/radon for resources related to radon. State government websites may also address hazards, requirements and guidelines for your state.</i></p>				

	9.D.02	I-T-P-K	Random	PP
a	When the water supply source is a well or other private source (i.e., not served by a public supply), onsite documentary evidence verifies that the local regulatory health authority has determined the water to be safe for human consumption.			
	<i>Rate 'N/A' if the program is served by a municipal water source.</i>			
b	<p>Regardless of the source of the drinking water (private well or municipal supply) the program implements the following best practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All water outlets used for cooking and drinking are flushed (until noticeably colder, about 30 – 60 seconds) after long periods (6 hours or more) of non-use. • Debris is cleaned from all faucet outlet screens or aerators on a regular basis. • Programs have onsite documentary evidence that verifies that the drinking water has been tested at all outlets where people are consuming water, including drinking fountains, and does not have elevated levels of lead; or that the Program has taken appropriate remediation steps such as the use of water filtration devices that have been certified to remove lead, copper and bacteria for additional treatment of drinking water at the outlet, if deemed necessary by the testing. <p><i>(This indicator is an Emerging Practice)</i></p>			
	<i>Written evidence may include documentation from the local regulatory health authority showing that the water has been tested and is safe for human consumption. Buildings of any age may have a lead problem from water sources. "Elevated levels of lead": For schools and child care facilities, EPA's action level for lead in drinking water is 20 ppb. At this level (or higher), actions must be taken to reduce lead levels.</i>			

	9.D.05	I-T-P-K	Not Currently Assessed: Best Practice
a	All rooms that children use are heated, cooled, and ventilated to maintain room temperature and humidity level.		
b	<p>Humidity levels are kept between 30% and 50%. Conditions that lead to excess moisture are avoided, as moisture contributes to the growth of mold and mildew.</p> <p><i>(This indicator is an Emerging Practice)</i></p>		
	<i>Humidity levels can be measured with a hygrometer.</i>		
c	The maintenance staff or contractor certifies that facility systems are maintained in compliance with national standards for facility use by children.		
	<i>Water leaks are promptly repaired. HVAC (Heating, Ventilating, and Air-Conditioning) systems are serviced regularly. Programs should refer to the ASHRAE or EPA standards for more specific information.</i>		

	9.D.06	I-T-P-K	Always	O, PP
a	<p>The facility, outdoor play areas, and vehicles used to transport children are entirely smoke free at all times. No smoking, including the use of e-cigarettes or "vaping", is permitted in the presence of children. (This indicator is an Emerging Practice)</p>			
	<i>Rate as 'Yes' if no evidence of smoking is seen inside the facility and the playground, OR if "No Smoking" signs are posted. Evidence may also include a policy in the staff and/or parent handbooks, memos, emails, contracts, and notes or minutes from staff and/or parent meetings.</i>			

9.D.08 , indicators a, b and c, and related guidance
<p>Rationale:</p> <p><u>Indicator a Guidance:</u> Previous guidance as removed from indicator a, as it was not suitable for assessment through Program Portfolio evidence.</p> <p><u>Indicators a, b, c:</u> In October 2016 NAEYC’s Council for Accreditation approved updated best practices and guidance related to environmental health.</p>

	9.D.08	I-T-P-K	Always	PP
a	<p>The program maintains facilities so they are free from harmful animals, insect pests, poisonous plants and other unwanted vegetation.</p> <p><i>Examples of harmful animals, insect pests, and poisonous plants: snakes, mice, rats, wasps, termites, ants, elderberry, jasmine, lily-of-the-valley, rhubarb.</i></p>			
b	<p>The program uses non-toxic techniques inside and outside the facility whenever possible, including an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system to eliminate or reduce harmful chemical exposures.</p> <p><i>IPM is the application of an interconnected set of largely non-toxic methods for managing pests (insects, germs, weeds, rodents) in homes, schools, child care facilities, workplaces and public areas.</i></p>			
c	<p>Toxic pesticides, if used, are applied by a licensed professional, at a time when children will have the least exposure for at least 12 hours. Parents and staff are notified in advance about the timing of the application. (This indicator is an Emerging Practice)</p> <p><i>Rate as ‘N/A’ if program documentation states that the program never uses toxic pesticides. Follow manufacturer’s guidelines if they recommend longer than 12 hours before children are exposed to treated areas. Information about pesticide products should be made available to parents.</i></p> <p><i>Bait traps are an acceptable method for applying pesticides, if the bait traps are placed out of reach of children. The selected products must be minimum risk pesticides (as defined by 40 CFR 152.25(f)) or EPA-registered products.</i></p> <p><i>Pesticide any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. See https://www.epa.gov/pesticides for more information.</i></p> <p><i>Pests: living organisms that occur where they are not wanted or that cause damage to crops or humans or other animals.</i></p> <p><i>Examples of pesticides: insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides, fungicides, molluscicides, chlorine bleach.</i></p> <p><i>Information about pesticide products should be made available to parents.</i></p>			

9.D.09		I-T-P-K	Always	O
a	Toxic substances are used only as directed by the manufacturer,			
b	stored in original labeled containers, and			
	<i>Rate as 'Yes' UNLESS evidence to the contrary is seen: toxic substances stored in a container other than the original labeled container. Diluted bleach solutions may be in a spray bottle (not original packaging). Diluted bleach solutions should be prepared fresh each day, must be diluted per the original package instructions, and must be clearly labeled. The label should include the dilution concentration.</i>			
c	kept in a locked room or cabinet, inaccessible to children, and away from medications and foods.			
	<i>Undiluted bleach should be in the original container and kept in a locked room or cabinet. Bleach is corrosive; liquid bleach is not considered flammable. Diluted bleach solutions should be out of the reach of children but do not need to be in a locked room or cabinet. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer should be inaccessible to children, and stored away from heat sources. It does not need to be in a locked room or cabinet.</i>			
d	Matches and lighters are not accessible, and gasoline and other flammable materials are stored (when needed) in a separate building.			
	<i>Products that are specifically labeled as flammable, including gasoline, should be stored in a separate building. Flammable products in small quantities such as white-out, alcohol wipes, and hand sanitizer do not need to be stored off-site, but must be kept out of reach of children.</i>			
	<i>Toxic, combustible, and flammable substances are all included in this criterion. <u>Toxic substances</u> those that can produce personal injury if inhaled, swallowed, or absorbed through the skin (includes cleaning supplies and pesticides). <u>Combustible materials</u> are any substance that can burn. <u>Flammable materials</u> give off vapors that can ignite at a lower temperature (under 100 degrees F) than combustible materials. Note labels carefully; some sun protection products or insect repellents are labeled as flammable and should not be used. Examples of toxic substances: pesticides, cleaning chemicals, chlorine bleach.</i>			

NEW CRITERION -- 9.D.10		I-T-P-K	Emerging	O, PP
To guard against lead and other contaminants,				
a	Only cold water is drawn from the tap for drinking, cooking and making baby formula.			
b	Wheel toys that are used outside are not also used inside.			
	<i>If strollers are stored inside (either program's strollers or parents' strollers), consider how best to minimize the tracking of outdoor contaminants into the facility.</i>			
c	A rough walk-off mat is supplied at all entrances to the facility, and the program encourages the wiping of shoes or the removal of shoes before entering the facility.			
	<i>A mat at least 10-feet long is recommended for main entrances, if possible.</i>			
	<i>See EPA site http://www2.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family#jobs.</i>			

10.D.03		I-T-P-K	Random	PP
a	The program has a written policy for reporting child abuse and neglect as well as procedures in place that comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws. The policy includes requirements for staff to report all suspected incidents of child abuse, neglect, or both by families, staff, volunteers, or others to the appropriate local agencies. Staff who report suspicions of child abuse or neglect where they work are immune from discharge, retaliation, or other disciplinary action for that reason alone unless it is proven that the report is malicious.			

10.D.03	I-T-P-K	Random	PP
<p><i>Evidence may take the form of policies included in your program's staff handbook.</i></p> <p><i>Policies should indicate that a report must be made if the reporter <u>suspects or has reasons to suspect</u> that a child has been abused or neglected. It is not the staff member's job to investigate or validate the abuse before reporting; this is the job of Child Protective Services caseworkers or law enforcement officers who have been trained to undertake this type of investigation. Although all states require the reporting of suspected abuse and neglect, there is no requirement that the reporter have proof that the abuse or neglect has occurred.</i></p>			