

San Diego County Preschool for ALL – RAINY DAY PROTOCOL

Reviews are conducted regardless of the weather. On days the weather does not permit for outdoor play, the children still need to have access to some type of gross motor/physical play and equipment. Access can be in the classroom itself, outside on a covered walk way, the gym, or cafeteria. The children must have at least 30 minutes of gross motor/physical play to get some credit for items #7 and #8 on the ECERS and item #26 on the FCCERS. Additionally, children will need access to the equipment such as hula hoops, bean bags, dancing, an obstacle course, etc. For example, to get credit for 5.2 on item 8, the gross motor equipment used must stimulate 7-9 different skills in addition to running, jumping and hopping. A good example is setting up an obstacle course with a variety of skills represented such as crawling, jumping, balancing, skipping, galloping, twirling, rolling, and tumbling.

Reviewers have observed rainy day procedures where teachers simply add more time to their indoor free play and include a few bean bags or scarves and music. This results in a lower score because this does not count towards time for gross motor physical play as it has to be time set aside for gross motor/physical play.

If outdoor time is typically used to meet substantial portion of the day, and your classroom does not go outside due to rain, this time needs to be made up in the classroom during the three hour observation separate from the time set aside for Indoor Gross Motor Play.

Play yards will still be reviewed for hazards and appropriate equipment by a reviewer on rainy days. If it is raining too hard or the play yard is flooded, the reviewer may have to return to take measurements of cushioning and to assess that the equipment is appropriate for the age group. The reviewer will also inspect for hazards.