

Substantial Portion of the Day

“Substantial portion of the day” means at least one-third of the time the children are in attendance. Substantial portion of the day is used to ensure that children have sufficient access to play, learning materials and experiences that optimize their development. The “substantial portion of the day” does not have to occur at one time.

11 Items of the ECERS that rate substantial portion of the day

- Item # 3 Furnishings for Relaxation and Comfort
Rating 5.1 Cozy area accessible to children for a substantial portion of the day.
- Item # 5 Space for Privacy
Rating 5.2 Space for privacy accessible for use for a substantial portion of the day.
- Item # 15 Books and Pictures
Rating 5.1 A wide selection of books are accessible for a substantial portion of the day.
- Item # 19 Fine Motor
Rating 5.1 Many developmental appropriate fine motor materials of each type accessible for a substantial portion of the day.
- Item #20 Art
Rating 5.1 Many and varied art materials accessible for a substantial portion of the day.
- Item #22 Blocks
Rating 5.4 Block area accessible for a substantial portion of the day.
- Item # 24 Dramatic Play
Rating 5.2 Materials accessible for a substantial portion of the day.
- Item # 25 Nature/ Science
5.2 Materials accessible for substantial portion of the day.
- Items #26 Math/ Numbers
Rating 5.2 Materials accessible for a substantial portion of the day.

- Item #34 Schedule

Rating 5.3 A substantial portion of the day is used for play activities. Note that routine care doesn't count for this play activities time.

- Item #35 Free Play

Rating 5.1 Free play occurs for a substantial portion of the day both indoors and outdoors.

Calculating “Substantial Portion of the Day”

Number of hours of operation	Substantial portion (1/3) of center hours
4	1 hour, 20 min
4.5	1 hour, 30 min
5	1 hour, 40 min
5.5	1 hour, 50 min
6	2 hour
6.5	2 hour, 10 min
7	2 hour 20 min
7.5	2 hour, 30 min
8	2 hour, 40 min
8.5	2 hour , 50 min
9	3 hours
9.5	3 hour, 10 min
10	3 hour, 20 min

Other items that have time allotments rated termed accessible

- Item # 8 Gross Motor Equipment

Rating 3.1 Some gross motor equipment *accessible* to all children for at least one hour daily *

- Item #21 Music/ Movement

Rating 3.1 Some music materials *accessible* for children's use or,

Rating 5.1 Many music materials *accessible* for children's use *

- Item #23 Sand/ Water

Rating 5.3 Sand or water play available to children for at least 1 hour daily *

*time requirements vary see accessibility chart below

Number of hours in operation	3 hrs.	4 hrs.	5 hrs.	6 hrs.	7 hrs.
Approximate minutes required for accessibility	25	30	40	45	50

(Chart to determine the approximate amount of time needed for materials to be accessible in programs operating in less than 8 hours. If program is 8 hours or more, time to be accessible is then 1 hour.)

Examples of Schedules