

P1: Safety and suitability of premises, environment, and equipment – Indoor space requirements - Childminders

What do I need to know?

- Legal Framework
 - [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) page 26, paragraph 3.65-3.67

Safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment – Indoor space requirements (page 40-41 of audit)	Things to consider and discuss:
<p>Do you ensure your premises and equipment are organised in a way that meets the needs of the children?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the needs of your children and how do your premises and equipment meet those needs? Is this true for every child? E.g., A variety of sizes of chairs so every child is able to sit with their feet touching the floor; spaces that are quieter and support children to feel safe emotionally? Are children able to be as independent as possible? Etc. • How do you evaluate your provision and the different areas of the environment to ensure the setting meets the needs of the individual children? Have you used any tool such as Environmental Rating Scales (e.g., ECERS, ITERS, FCCERS) to support your judgements? • When transitioning new children into the setting, do you ensure you understand and implement any adjustments necessary to enable the child to thrive? E.g., hearing loop, ramps.
<p>Do you ensure you meet the following indoor space requirements where indoor activity in a building(s) forms the main part of (or is integral) to the provision?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 2 years: 3.5 m² per child • 2-year-olds: 2.5 m² per child • 3–5-year-olds: 2.3 m² per child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the measurements of your useable indoor? What is the maximum number of children the space can accommodate?

<p>Are you aware that these judgements should be based on useable areas of the rooms used by the children, not including storage areas, thoroughfares, dedicated staff areas, cloakrooms, utility rooms, and toilets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which parts of your rooms cannot be included in your space calculations?
<p>Do you make sure you consider what areas within their kitchens are safely usable?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you considered which part of your kitchen cannot be used safely? • Have you carried out or created a risk assessment of your kitchen which clearly identifies the risks within your kitchen and what you have done to mitigate these risks? • How often is this risk assessment reviewed? • How do you check that equipment is stored safely and out of reach of children? • How do you ensure that any medicines and cleaning equipment or materials is safely stored and not accessible to children? • What would you do if there was an accident or incident in your kitchen area? • How would you share any accidents or incidents with parents and, or carers?
<p>Are you aware that where the space standards are applied, you cannot increase the number of children on roll because they additionally use an outside area?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you aware that your outdoor area is not included in the space standards requirements when deciding how many children you can take?
<p>Are you aware exclusively (or almost exclusively) outdoor provision is not required to meet the space standards above as long as children’s needs can be met (For this kind of provision, indoor space requirements can be used as a guide for the minimum area needed)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you know your other exclusive (or almost exclusive) outdoor spaces meet the needs of all children? • What adaptations have you and would you need for any child with a disability? • If your setting is setting is exclusively or almost exclusively outdoor, have you used the indoor space standards as a guide? • Have you risk assessed your outdoor provision to determine which outdoor areas of your provision you will and won’t be using?

Useful links and further help:

[Health visiting \(0 to 5 years\) : Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust](#)

[Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities: prevention and control](#)

[How to change your baby's nappy - NHS](#)

[Derbyshire SchoolsNet - Early Years Quality Team](#)

[Derbyshire Early Years Service - Eventbrite](#)

Email: CS.EYS@derbyshire.gov.uk e.g., for information on an ECERS, ITERS, MOVERS or FCCERS audits