

Infant Classroom Safety Inspection Checklist

Use this checklist to take a fresh look at your infant classroom and identify equipment, furnishings, or room conditions that may need attention.

Center: _____

Classroom: _____

Date: _____

Completed by: _____

1. Cribs & Safe Sleep

Cribs are sturdy, stable, and in good overall condition.

Cribs have no missing, loose, broken, or improperly installed hardware.

Crib slats, rails, frames, and mattress supports are free from cracks, damage, or excessive wear.

Each crib has a firm, tight-fitting mattress designed for that crib.

Fitted sheets fit securely and are in good condition.

Cribs are free of pillows, stuffed animals, bumper pads, quilts, comforters, and other soft items.

Infants are placed on their backs for sleep unless otherwise directed by an appropriate medical professional.

Nothing is attached to or hanging over a crib that could create an entanglement or strangulation hazard.

Cribs are positioned away from window blind cords, electrical cords, heaters, and other hazards.

Evacuation cribs, when required by the center's emergency plan, are clearly identified and ready for use.

Evacuation crib wheels, casters, brakes, and hardware operate properly.

Crib manufacturer and model information can be identified if a recall or safety notice needs to be checked.

2. Changing Areas

Changing tables are stable and do not wobble or shift during use.

Changing surfaces are free from cracks, tears, exposed foam, or damaged seams.

Guardrails or protective sides are secure and in good condition.

Steps or pull-out stairs, if equipped, lock securely when not in use.

Changing supplies are within an adult's reach without requiring the child to be left unattended.

Cleaning products, medications, creams, and other potentially hazardous materials are inaccessible to children.

Changing surfaces can be properly cleaned and sanitized between uses.

Handwashing facilities and required supplies are readily accessible.

3. Feeding Equipment

High chairs and feeding chairs are stable and in good condition.

Safety straps and restraint systems are present and functioning properly.

Trays lock securely into position.

There are no cracked surfaces, broken components, exposed hardware, or pinch points.

Feeding equipment can be easily cleaned and sanitized.

Bottles and food are stored, labeled, prepared, and handled according to center procedures.

Feeding areas are positioned to allow active supervision of infants.

4. Gliders, Rockers & Adult Seating

Gliders and rockers are stable and structurally sound.

Moving components operate smoothly.

Children cannot easily access exposed moving mechanisms or pinch points.

Upholstery is intact with no tears, exposed foam, staples, or sharp components.

Chairs provide appropriate support for caregivers while feeding or comforting infants.

Furniture is positioned so it does not block walkways, exits, or caregiver sightlines.

5. Shelving, Storage & Classroom Furniture

Shelving and storage units are stable and resistant to tipping.

Furniture that requires anchoring is properly secured.

Shelves have no loose hardware, sharp edges, splinters, cracks, or broken components.

Heavy items are stored low rather than on upper shelves.

Materials accessible to infants are age-appropriate and free of choking hazards.

Storage bins, baskets, and containers are intact and do not have broken or sharp edges.

Furniture placement provides clear pathways for caregivers carrying infants.

Furniture does not create hidden areas that interfere with active supervision.

6. Floor & Play Areas

Flooring is clean, dry, intact, and free from tripping hazards.

Rugs and mats lie flat and do not slide or curl at the edges.

Soft play equipment is free from tears, exposed foam, or damaged seams.

Toys and manipulatives are developmentally appropriate for infants.

Toys do not contain loose or detachable small parts that could create a choking hazard.

Toys are inspected regularly for cracks, sharp edges, damaged components, or excessive wear.

Equipment is arranged to provide adequate crawling and movement space.

Play areas allow caregivers to maintain clear sightlines throughout the room.

7. Doors, Windows & Electrical Safety

Electrical outlets are protected as required.

Electrical cords are inaccessible to infants.

Power strips and chargers are secured away from children's reach.

Window blind and shade cords are inaccessible.

Windows, screens, and locks are secure and in good condition.

Doors and gates operate properly.

Door hinges and other moving components do not create accessible pinch points.

Emergency exits and evacuation routes are clear and unobstructed.

8. Sanitation & General Condition

Frequently touched classroom surfaces can be properly cleaned and sanitized.

Furniture surfaces are free of peeling finishes, splinters, rust, or significant deterioration.

Toys and classroom materials are cleaned and sanitized according to center procedures.

Trash and diaper disposal containers are covered or otherwise managed according to applicable requirements.

Cleaning chemicals and disinfectants are stored securely and inaccessible to children.

There are no visible signs of water damage, mold, pests, or other environmental concerns.

9. Emergency Readiness

Emergency contact information is current and readily accessible to staff.

Required emergency supplies are available and easy to locate.

Staff know the classroom's evacuation procedure.

Evacuation equipment is accessible and not blocked by furniture or supplies.

Emergency exits can be reached quickly while transporting infants.

First-aid supplies are stocked and stored according to center procedures.

Staff know how to report damaged or unsafe classroom equipment.

Equipment Review

As you inspect the room, identify anything that falls into one of these categories:

REPLACE

Equipment is damaged, unstable, recalled, difficult to sanitize, missing essential components, or otherwise no longer appropriate for continued use.

Items identified:

REFRESH

Equipment is still serviceable but showing wear, limiting classroom function, or approaching the end of its useful life.

Items identified:

REWORK

The equipment itself is appropriate, but rearranging the classroom could improve supervision, accessibility, traffic flow, or safety.

Areas identified:

Follow-Up Priorities

Immediate safety concern — remove from use and address promptly

Replacement recommended

Maintenance or repair needed

Classroom layout adjustment recommended

No action needed

Notes:

A safer classroom starts with taking a closer look.

Regularly inspecting infant classroom furniture and equipment can help identify wear, damage, and potential hazards before they become bigger concerns.

Need a second set of eyes?

North Star School Supply can help review your infant classroom, identify opportunities to replace, refresh, or rework aging equipment, and recommend solutions that fit your space and budget.

This checklist is intended as a general classroom review tool and is not a substitute for applicable federal, state, or local child care licensing requirements. Centers should always verify requirements with their licensing authority and follow manufacturer instructions for individual products.