

WAC 110-301-0145 Outdoor school-age program space. (1) A school-age provider must visually inspect outdoor program space and equipment daily to ensure outdoor areas and equipment are free of hazards.

(2) Outdoor play space must contain a minimum of seventy-five square feet of licensed usable space per child accessing the play space at any given time. A school-age provider may develop an alternate plan if a school-age program does not have enough outdoor play space to accommodate all enrolled children at once, such as rotating groups of children to play outdoors or using an off-site play area. The department must approve alternate plans to use off-site play spaces.

(3) A school-age program must have shaded areas in outdoor play space provided by trees, buildings, or shade structures.

(4) Outdoor play space must promote a variety of age and developmentally appropriate active play areas for children in care. Activities must encourage and promote both moderate and vigorous physical activity such as running, jumping, skipping, throwing, pedaling, pushing, pulling, kicking, and climbing.

(5) Bouncing equipment including, but not limited to, trampolines, rebounders, and inflatable equipment must be inaccessible and locked. This requirement does not apply to bounce balls designed to be used by individual children.

(6) When the licensed outdoor play space is not immediately adjacent to the school-age program site, a school-age provider must use a safe route when moving to and from the licensed outdoor play space.

(7) For any program that does not operate on public or private school premises, licensed outdoor play areas must be enclosed with a fence or barrier that is intended to prevent children from exiting and discourages climbing. If the outdoor play area is enclosed by a barrier that is not a fence, the barrier may be a wall constructed with brick, stone, or a similar material.

(8) For any program that does not operate on public or private school premises, licensed outdoor play areas must be enclosed to deter people without permission from entering the area.

(9) For any program that does not operate on public or private school premises, fences, barriers, and gates must be in good condition, have no gap through which a sphere with a diameter of three and one-half inches can pass, and have a minimum height of forty-eight inches or conform in height to applicable local codes.

(10) For any program that does not operate on public or private school premises, the opening between a fence post and gate or fence post and building must have no gap through which a sphere with a diameter of three and one-half inches can pass.

(11) For any program that does not operate on public or private school premises, a school-age provider must not install any wooden fence, playground structure, or furniture if it contains chromated copper arsenate (CCA), creosote or pentachlorophenol. If wooden fences, structures, and furniture are suspected of having CCA, they must be tested. If CCA is present, fences, structures, and furniture must be removed or sealed with an oil-based outdoor sealant annually or as needed within six months of the date this section becomes effective.

(12) Within six months of the date this section becomes effective or prior to licensing, any program that does not operate on public or private school premises must have exiting mechanisms on gates from a licensed outdoor play area to unlicensed space that are equipped with a self-closing and self-latching mechanism (shuts automatically when

released from an individual's control). A gate that is not an emergency exit must be locked or self-closing and self-latching.

(13) For any program that does not operate on public or private school premises, outdoor play areas must have two exits that must not be partially or entirely blocked. At least one of the two exits must not lead back into licensed indoor space.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.216.055 and 43.216.065. WSR 21-10-035, § 110-301-0145, filed 4/27/21, effective 6/1/21.]