



WAC child care walkthrough checklist

The child care walkthrough checklist is meant to guide you through the center. If the respective item or issue is identified in a room or area, the room name/number should be written in the blank column titled “Where trigger was identified”. Then follow the recommendations in the right column to create a healthier child care environment.

Trigger	Areas of investigation	What to look for	Where trigger was identified	Recommendations
Animals	Classroom pets	Warm-blooded animals such as cats, dogs, rabbits, mice, gerbils, hamsters or birds		Remove animals from child care, if possible; if not, keep animals in cages or localized areas and away from upholstered furniture and carpets
				Always have staff and children wash their hands after playing with a pet
				Acceptable animals include: fish and butterflies
Cockroaches and other pests	Bathroom drain pipes, ceiling, wall/floor edges	Holes, gaps in wall, popped up tiles		Use caulk, a sealant, or metal coverings to seal any holes around metal pipes/walls/ceiling.
	Corners, behind furniture, under sinks, along window sills or in any dark/ wet area	Droppings, dead pests, or traps		Clean affected areas of droppings or dead pests. Develop and implement an integrated pest management (IPM) system. Visit www.chawisconsin.org for more information.

Dust and dust mites	Flooring	Carpets Area rugs or carpet squares		Replace area rugs or carpet squares with non-fabric materials such as foam mats, if possible
				Vacuum area rugs and carpet squares daily.
				Carpets should be professionally cleaned; if not feasible, follow manufacturer guidelines when cleaning carpets to ensure water removal and to limit chemical exposure
	Air vents	Air vents		Regularly dust these areas with a damp cloth
	Bedding and sleep areas	Bedding (specifically bedding that is not stored or cleaned properly)		*Cots and mattresses are washable and sanitized at least every five uses or when soiled
				Use dust proof covers on pillows and mattresses
				Mattresses without a plastic covering should have a dust mite covering on it
				Sheets and blankets should be washed at least every five uses in water that is over 120 °F
				If parents are responsible for providing sheets/sleeping bags/personal mattresses, the child care center should provide education to parents on washing the sleeping accessories appropriately
				Bedding should be stored in closed containers when not in use

Dust and dust mites	Window treatments	Blinds and curtains		Wash fabric curtains in hot water (above 130° F) or place in the freezer overnight on a weekly basis		
				Regularly dust these areas with a damp cloth		
				Replace curtains and blinds with pull down shades whenever possible		
	Classroom organization	General clutter and cleanliness	Furnace filters		Remind staff that papers and clutter are difficult to effectively clean around and clutter collects dust; use environmentally friendly products and clean with a damp cloth	
					Have furnace maintained and change filters according to manufacturer's recommendations	
					Avoid open bookshelves as they are great dust catchers	
					Wash stuffed animals or pillows in hot water (above 130° F) or place in the freezer overnight at least once weekly	
				Upholstered or stuffed chairs		Remove all upholstered furniture and replace with wooden or plastic furniture
						Vacuum furniture once a week when children are not in attendance
					Toys, stuffed animals, crayons, etc.	Store items in closed containers when not in use
					Ceiling/3D ornaments	Take down and clean off ceiling and 3D ornaments that collect dust
	Artificial Plant	Artificial plants		Wipe down and clean artificial plant leaves from dust build up		

Odors	Storage areas for cleaning products	Cleaning supplies		**Appropriate disinfectant solutions are made with either bleach or a quaternary ammonia solution; more details can be found in the tips section of the report
				BEST: Limit parents or guardians from supplying cleaning products
				BETTER: Provide parents or guardians a list of approved cleaning products that are asthma friendly
				Allow adequate time for area to air out after disinfecting before children are allowed to return
				All chemicals should be stored away from child play areas and inaccessible to children
				Disinfecting should occur when children are not around
		Chlorine and other cleaning products for pools and hot tubs		Ensure there is plenty of fresh air and/or ventilation when using cleaning products with strong odors and vapors
	Paint supplies for building maintenance and art supplies	Paint for walls		Eliminate all lead-based paint and other toxic materials
				Only use low odor paints and low VOC paints
				Paint walls when children are not present and have enough time to air out the area; ventilate the area while painting
	Scented items such as:	Candles		Candles are not recommended for child care facilities
		Essential oil diffuser		Certain essential oils are asthma triggers and are not recommended to be used in child care facilities
Perfume			Perfume should be used sparingly by staff and students	

Odors	Scented items such as:	Plug in/ air fresheners		All scented items should be restricted in all child care rooms
		Potpourri		Limit the use of potpourri in areas where children are
	Smoke	Smoke odor		Create a no-smoke policy for building at all times, including electronic cigarettes; this should include a 15-25 foot distance from the entryway
				Create a third-hand smoke policy, where staff and children may not smell of smoke when at child care, including electronic cigarettes
		Stale smell around plants, sinks, or windows		Limit number of plants, require watering trays and encourage regular maintenance, (such as tossing dead leaves, emptying full water trays)
Mold, mildew and moisture	Appliances	Personal refrigerators		Prohibit personal refrigerators; communal refrigerators should have an unbending solid surface, such as a rubber tray to catch residual water
		Water located near or under appliances		Sinks should be wiped, in and around, after every use
				Appliances should not be kept near or on carpeting due to drips and potential mold growth
	All rooms where children are, particularly in lower levels.	Humidity over 60%		Invest in a dehumidifier to keep control of humidity levels in the area
	Bathroom facilities	Discolored spots		Bathrooms should be cleaned regularly
		Standing water		Bathrooms should be free of standing water on sinks and floors
		Stale smell and humid air		Vent bathrooms to the outside to control humidity and odors

Mold, mildew and moisture	Other considerations			There is no practical way to eliminate all molds indoors; the way to control indoor mold growth is to control moisture; clean the mold from the surface it's growing on and dry the surface thoroughly; completely dry damp or wet surfaces within 24 to 48 hours to avoid mold growth
				Identify the source of moisture and fix the issue; remove the section of ceiling with the stain
		Cleaning supplies		Mops, mop buckets and brooms should be in an area where they can completely dry
		Exhaust fan		Use exhaust fan(s) when cooking
		Garbage containers		Should be watertight sealed and emptied daily
		Standing water		Identify the source of moisture and fix the issue; a clogged drain is a common problem that leads to standing water
		Carpeting or rug next to sink		When possible, put hard flooring around sink area
		Walk – off mats		All entrances should have walk-off mats
		Wall decorations		Remove wall decorations periodically to prevent mold growth from the moisture that could build up in between the wall and wall decorations

Asthma triggers related to vehicles	Transportation	Inside the vehicle		*Van/car/bus should be clutter-free and cleaned daily
				Mats should be vacuumed daily and cleaned regularly especially during weather that could bring in mud, salt, and other triggers
				All scented items should be restricted in transportation vehicles
				Create a no-smoke policy for vehicle at all times, including electronic cigarettes
	Outside the vehicle	Exhaust from vehicles in parking zone		Create a third-hand smoke policy, where staff may not smell of smoke when driving vehicle, including electronic cigarettes
				Turn off engine for when the vehicle is stopped for more than 10 seconds
Asthma triggers related to outdoor play	Outdoor play area including:	Wet areas in playgrounds		Areas should be well-drained
		Wood treated with creosote		Should be eliminated or not accessible to children
	Air Quality Index (AQI)	Clean or polluted outdoor air		Check the AQI at airnow.gov to learn what actions you should take before going outside to play
	Pool, wading pool or hot tub	Standing water; discolored spots; cleaning supplies		These sources should be free of mold and cleaned weekly or when mold is exposed
				Limit the children's exposure to the pool area and keep the pool covered when not being used because of chemical odors