



SPACE SIZE

WHAT IS DIFFERENT?

The requirements for space for children 19 months and over have remained the same as they were under the NLCR and OCCR. The space requirements are established to ensure that the available space is appropriate to the length of time children will occupy the space and reduces risks to children. For this reason, different minimum amounts of space are required for Long Term or Combined CNC and Short Term CNC.

Note: The amount of space you need for each additional child is the same (2.8 square meters) for each type of care, but the total minimum space needed for Short Term CNC is less.

There is, however, a change in the amount of space required for children under 19 months (Infants). Again, the amount required differs according to the type of care being provided. The minimum amount of space for infants in Long Term or Combined CNC programs is 16.8 meters for each group of 3 infants.

If you are caring for more than 3 infants (to a maximum of 6) you will need to provide at least 33.6 square meters of infant space. This increase in infant space will help you manage the space better since it will more easily accommodate the necessary equipment while allowing the children to move about safely.

Short Term programs will need to provide 8.3 square meters of space for 3 infants and 16.6 square meters for more than 3 infants. Since there is less need for cribs and other permanent types of equipment when Short Term CNC is offered, less space is required.

Note: If you are looking for changes to the requirements for gross motor and outdoor space, these are covered in the Gross Motor Space module.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Activity Space

The amount of available space has a direct impact on both children and staff. When they have enough space, children behave in more constructive ways. Crowding can limit their play and lead to challenging behaviours.



It is important to provide sufficient space for infants and to consider that the space must accommodate cribs, high chairs and other pieces of furniture. Infant care means that the children will primarily be found on the floor, playing and crawling. It is essential in an infant program that the adults have sufficient space to move safely around the children. Increasing the space minimum for infant care will help to address these issues.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Measure space to determine the amount of useable activity space you have available to provide CNC. Here are the required amounts:
 - Minimum space required
 - ◇ Long Term – a minimum of 22 square meters
 - ◇ Combined – a minimum of 22 square meters
 - ◇ Short Term – a minimum of 14 square meters
 - Minimum space required if Children are under 19 months
 - ◇ Long Term – a minimum of 16.8 square meters
 - ◇ Combined – a minimum of 16.8 square meters
 - ◇ Short Term – a minimum of 8.3 square meters

Note: If you are in doubt about what to include in “useable activity space,” ask your CMAS consultant for help.

- Use the space measurements to determine the number of children that can be cared for in each space. In your decision making, remember to factor in the type of care you will provide. Also consider the ages of the children who will use the space, the number of children who can be in each group, and the way the various age groups will impact one another.
- Depending on the size of the physical space available to your program, it may need to be divided for use by different age groups or for different types of activity.
- Consider how the groups need to be separated and what activities will be provided. For example, if your gross motor space is in the same room as your activity space, how will you ensure the balls



children are playing with in one area won't land on the heads of children in another?

- Plan in advance how the space will be used (e.g. where moveable shelves and activity centres will be located, where you will put furniture such as tables and chairs, where infant furniture will be placed so that children will be able to move around freely).
- Remember if you have children attend care for more than 3 hours per day you will need to have at least 45 square meters of gross motor space.
- If caring for infants, ensure that your space is large enough to accommodate necessary sleeping and eating equipment (e.g. cribs and high chairs).
- The infant area must have a floor surface that is suitable for the care of infants (i.e. is soft and easily cleaned).

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Long Term and Combined Care

- The useable indoor activity space must include an area for infants that is defined and separated from the area occupied by the older children. The space must be separated using a secure barrier that is of sufficient height to reduce distraction and prevent injury.

Combined Care

The set up of the activity space in a Combined Care program must take into consideration the needs of children receiving both types of care. Space that is familiar to long-term children will be new to short-term children.

Toys and materials should be readily available to the children.

Consider that short-term children may wish to be on their own at first. Provide an area where they can play alone and feel safe. Children can use time in this area to observe other children involved in activities and become confident enough to join them. This area should be both near the door and in a location where they can see what is happening around them.

Toys and materials should be readily available in the space to children receiving both types of care.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Sample CNC Space Safety Checklist



REQUIREMENTS

2-6 SPACE SIZE AND USAGE

Space for Children 19 Months of Age and Over

- a. A program that provides long term or combined CNC with an enrolment of one (1) to eight (8) children has a minimum of twenty-two (22) square metres of useable indoor activity space and a minimum of 2.8 square metres of useable indoor activity space for each additional child.
- b. A program that provides only short term CNC with an enrolment of one (1) to five (5) children has a minimum of fourteen (14) square metres of useable indoor activity space and a minimum of 2.8 square metres of useable indoor activity space for each additional child.
- c. When a child is receiving care for more than three (3) hours a day in a long term or combined program with an enrolment of one (1) to eight (8) children nineteen (19) months of age and over, the program has a minimum of forty-five (45) square metres of additional useable indoor or outdoor gross motor space, and may need additional space when more children are enrolled.

Space for Children Under 19 Months of Age

- d. A program that provides long term or combined CNC has a minimum of 16.8 square metres of useable indoor activity space for each one (1) to three (3) children under nineteen (19) months of age.
- e. A program that provides only short term CNC has a minimum of 8.3 square metres of useable space for each one (1) to three (3) children under nineteen (19) months of age.
- f. The useable indoor activity space includes an area designated for children under nineteen (19) months of age that
 1. Has an area where the floor surface is soft, easily cleaned and suitable for sitting, crawling and playing; and
 2. When a program that provides long term or combined CNC, is defined and separated from the area occupied by the older children by a secure barrier that is of sufficient height to reduce distraction and prevent injury.