

2024 ITERS-3 (page 25) Item #5 Meals/snacks - Based on new guidance from the resource *Caring for Our Children (CFOC)*, updated 09/2023, it is no longer required that the faucet be turned off with a paper towel. According to CFOC's updated notes, programs may turn off the faucet during handwashing to save water. Programs do not need to leave the water running because data has not shown that a significant number of germs are transferred between hands and the faucet. At the end of the procedure, faucets may be turned off with or without a paper towel depending on program requirements. Research has shown that using a paper towel to turn off the faucet does not improve health. A handout, *Diapering and Handwashing Procedure*, is available on the ERSI website, www.ersi.info and contains the complete handwashing procedure.

2024 ITERS-3 (page 25) Item #5 Meals/snacks - If a mealtime is not observed during the 3 hours, indicators 1.1 and 1.2 should be scored, "yes." All other indicators related to nutrition, interactions, and schedule should be scored, "no." Score indicators related to sanitation based on other observed sanitary practices if no sanitary practices related to meals take place during the 3-hour observation.

2024 ITERS-3 (page 27) Item #6 Diapering/toileting - Based on new guidance from the resource *Caring for Our Children (CFOC)*, updated 09/2023, it is no longer required that the faucet be turned off with a paper towel. According to CFOC's updated notes, programs may turn off the faucet during handwashing to save water. Programs do not need to leave the water running because data has not shown that a significant number of germs are transferred between hands and the faucet. At the end of the procedure, faucets may be turned off with or without a paper towel depending on program requirements. Research has shown that using a paper towel to turn off the faucet does not improve health. A handout, *Diapering and Handwashing Procedure*, is available on the ERSI website, www.ersi.info and contains the complete handwashing procedure.

2024 ITERS-3 (page 29) Item #7 Health practices - Based on new guidance from the resource *Caring for Our Children (CFOC)*, updated 09/2023, it is no longer required that the faucet be turned off with a paper towel. According to CFOC's updated notes, programs may turn off the faucet during handwashing to save water. Programs do not need to leave the water running because data has not shown that a significant number of germs are transferred between hands and the faucet. At the end of the procedure, faucets may be turned off with or without a paper towel depending on program requirements. Research has shown that using a paper towel to turn off the faucet does not improve health. A handout, *Diapering and Handwashing Procedure*, is available on the ERSI website, www.ersi.info and contains the complete handwashing procedure.

2024 ITERS-3 (page 57) Item #21 Math/number, 3.2 - Staff math talk to children, about play materials/equipment being used outdoors, can also be considered here.

2024 ITERS-3 (page 55) Item # 20 Nature/science, 5.1 – In order to earn credit for this indicator, all children present need to have an outdoor experience with nature during the observation, including infants.