

Fact sheet for Childcare Providers



Physical activity plays a vital role in a child's development. It builds a young child's confidence, promotes bone & muscle development and increases the likelihood of maintaining a long term healthy weight. As a child care provider you have the opportunity to create a healthy environment which will support children to establish a healthy start in life! Tús Maith is leath na hoibre!!

How much?

All children under the age of 5 should aim to participate in structured physical activity for **60 minutes** each day. This can be done all at one time or accumulated in shorter sessions of **10-15 minutes**.

Infants	Toddlers	Pre-Schoolers
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Infants should interact with parents and/or caregivers in daily physical activities that are dedicated to promoting the exploration of their environment 2. Infants should be placed in safe settings that facilitate physical activity and do not restrict movement for prolonged periods of time 3. Infants' physical activity should promote the development of movement skills 4. Infants should have an environment that meets or exceeds recommended safety standards for performing large muscle activities. 5. Individuals responsible for the well-being of infants should be aware of the importance of physical activity and facilitate the child's movement skills 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Toddlers should accumulate at least 30 minutes daily of structured physical activity 2. Toddlers should engage in at least 60 minutes and up to several hours per day of daily, unstructured physical activity and should not be sedentary for more than 60 minutes at a time except when sleeping 3. Toddlers should develop movement skills that are building blocks for more complex movement tasks 4. Toddlers should have indoor and outdoor areas that meet or exceed recommended safety standards for performing large muscle activities 5. Individuals responsible for the well-being of toddlers should be aware of the importance of physical activity and facilitate the child's movement skills 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preschoolers should accumulate at least 60 minutes daily of structured physical activity 2. Preschoolers should engage in at least 60 minutes and up to several hours per day of daily, unstructured physical activity and should not be sedentary for more than 60 minutes at a time except when sleeping. 3. Preschoolers should develop competence in movement skills that are building blocks for more complex movement tasks. 4. Preschoolers should have indoor and outdoor areas that meet or exceed recommended safety standards for performing large muscle activities 5. Individuals responsible for the well-being of preschoolers should be aware of the importance of physical activity and facilitate the child's movement skills