

## Clarification from ECERS regarding screen time limitations

The most recent version of Caring for our Children has changed the benchmark for screen time in the classroom recently. There is no variation in the time limit for screen time based on the length of the program.

The excerpt from ECERS reads:

Due to recommendations in the 2011 version of Caring for Our Children, pages 66-67, time allowed for children to view television, video, DVD and use the computer ("media screen time) has been changed. Time is limited for children in ECERS groups to not more than 30 minutes total, once a week. Computer use time should be limited to no more than 15 minutes per day for children in a program of any length with the exception of children with disabilities who require assistive computer technology. No media screen time should be allowed during meals/snacks.

To simply, TV, video, and DVD are limited to 30 minutes, once per week. Computers, smart boards and other small electronic devices are limited to 15 minutes per day.

In the event that specific therapists are using I-Pads or other electronic devices with children, the following requirements apply:

- If they are used as a communication device for children with disabilities there is no application towards time limitations.
- If they are playing SLP or similar games on the device, the time would contribute to the total of 15 minutes a day.

The Assessors are using these new criteria to score this item on the ECERS.