

# 5.6 Recreation

## Introduction

This U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Family Residential Standard ensures that Centers provide a well-defined and structured recreation program for all residents. The recreation program will provide various activities that promote physical and mental health and are appropriate to the ages and interests of all residents.

Various terms used in this standard may be defined in the ICE Family Residential Standard on *Definitions*.

## Program Philosophy

The requirements of this standard must be implemented in accordance with the ICE Family Residential Standard on *Program Philosophy, Goals, and Expected Outcomes*.

### A. Language Access and Disability Requirements

Centers will adhere to the language access and disability laws, regulations, responsibilities, requirements, and laws cited in the ICE Family Residential Standard on *Program Philosophy, Goals, and Expected Outcomes* and the ICE Family Residential Standard on *Disability Identification, Assessment, and Accommodation*. These requirements must be promulgated in all Center policies, practices, and operations and its themes must be fully incorporated into every Center activity. This is of critical importance and will directly impact resident life, health, and safety.

## Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of this standard are as follows (specific requirements are defined in the Expected Practices section in this standard):

1. Residents will have daily opportunities during free movement to participate in leisure-time activities outside their respective living and activity areas.
2. Centers will ensure that minors have adequate recreational time outside of the physical education component of their academic program.
3. Residents will have access to exercise opportunities and equipment during free movement, both inside and outside the living and activity area and outdoors. Centers must maintain outdoor recreation areas for resident use. Daily indoor recreation also will be available. During inclement weather, residents will have access to indoor recreational opportunities, with access to natural light.
4. Recreational programs will be designed to accommodate the specialized needs of adults and minors.

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5. When not in school, minors will be provided structured physical activities such as organized sports, activities including dance, intellectually stimulating activities, arts and crafts, and music.
6. Centers will provide recreational opportunities that are age-appropriate for all minors, including minors with disabilities.
7. Centers will foster appropriate staff interaction with residents engaged in activities.
8. Each recreation volunteer who provides or participates in Center recreational programs will comply with applicable sections of the ICE Family Residential Standard on *Staff Training*.

### Standards Affected

This standard replaces the ICE Family Residential Standard on *Recreation* dated 12/21/2007.

### Expected Practices

#### A. Indoor and Outdoor Recreation

Centers must provide daily indoor and outdoor recreational and other activities appropriate to the needs, interests, and abilities of residents, so that every adult and minor is able to participate. The size of indoor and outdoor recreation areas will include consideration of State or other licensing requirements for similar Centers. The Field Office Director and Juvenile and Family Residential Management Unit Chief will approve Center recreational and activity schedules.

Each outdoor recreation area must provide ample green space for use by minors and adults. This space should include shaded areas with seating, age-appropriate play areas, a soccer-style field, and other athletic activity areas at the Center Administrator's discretion.

Each indoor recreation area must provide the minimum amount of square footage, including unencumbered space and appropriate ceiling height, to provide access to age-appropriate play and physical education activities for at least one-quarter of the residents at any given time. Space considerations should include each Center allowing open access during daylight hours. Areas will have appropriate space to allow for the designed activities to be conducted in a safe manner.

#### B. Recreation Schedule

Residents will have access to outdoor recreation areas from a minimum of 8 a.m. to dusk 7 days a week, weather permitting. Daily indoor recreation also will be available during these hours. During inclement weather, residents will have access to indoor recreational opportunities with access to natural light.

Recreation schedules, to include structured activities, will be provided to the residents or posted in the Resident Information Center.

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Under no circumstances will the Center require residents to forgo basic law library privileges for recreation privileges in accordance with the ICE Family Residential Standard on *Law Libraries and Legal Material*.

### C. Structured Activities

Centers will provide structured activities and programs daily for all residents. In particular, these programs and activities will focus on growth, development, family interactions, and healthy living.

Centers must provide daily indoor and outdoor recreation and other activities appropriate to the needs, interests, and abilities of families and children, so that every adult and minor is able to participate.

### D. Activities

Centers will provide various activities and equipment daily as part of the activities program.

Activities should include arts and crafts, entertainment, reading materials, table games, puzzles and board games, etc. Age-appropriate equipment will be provided to minors and adults and should include play, sporting, and fitness items.

### E. Activity Coordinator

The Center Administrator will designate a Center staff member responsible for developing and overseeing the recreation program. The Activity Coordinator will assess the needs and interests of the residents:

- Centers will employ a full-time Activity Coordinator who will possess a minimum of a bachelor's degree in physical education or related field of study and additional training in implementing and overseeing a recreation program;
- The Activity Coordinator will be responsible for developing and overseeing the recreational program; and
- Through routine staff and resident surveys of the recreation and activity needs and interests, the Activity Coordinator will assess and make modifications to the program.

### F. General Requirements

All Centers will provide recreational opportunities for all residents, including those with disabilities.

Centers will provide a room or an area that is set aside and designed for toddlers. This area will address the developmental needs of toddlers to include activities, games, and toys.

Centers will establish and provide structured toddler programming a minimum of three times per week. These activities will be conducted by staff or trained volunteers. At least two sessions each week will not require parent/guardian involvement.

Staff will participate actively with residents engaged in recreational activities.

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Cardiovascular exercise will be available to all residents, including residents with disabilities or medical conditions that preclude their participation in outdoor recreation.

Recreational activities will be based on the Center's size and location. Recreational activities may include limited-contact sports, such as soccer, basketball, volleyball, and table games, and may extend to intramural competitions among units.

Living and activity areas will offer a wide selection of age-appropriate toys, board games, television, and other sedentary activities.

Staff will supervise dayroom activities, distributing games and other recreation materials daily.

Centers will develop an appropriate and adequate supply of recreation equipment to meet the needs of the residential population. Centers will be responsible for maintaining this inventory in the appropriate state of repair.

The Center health care provider may restrict a resident's participation in the recreation program due to medical needs and limitations.

All residents participating in outdoor recreation will have access to drinking water and toilets.

Staff will search recreation areas before and after use to detect altered or damaged equipment and emergent safety issues. They also will issue all portable equipment items, and check each item for damage and general condition upon its return.

Programs and activities are subject to the Center's security and operational guidelines and may be restricted at the Center Administrator's discretion. Recreation areas will be under continuous supervision by staff equipped with radios or other communication devices to maintain contact with the control center when residents are present to ensure the safety of residents.

Residents may engage in independent recreation activities, such as board games and small-group activities, consistent with safe and secure Center operations.

The Center Administrator will establish Center policy concerning television viewing in dayrooms. All television viewing schedules will be subject to the Center Administrator's approval.

Residents will be provided wireless headsets for television viewing, with access to appropriate language stations or choices.

## G. Other Programs and Activities

Centers will offer access to reading materials, through libraries with regular hours. Reading materials in English, Spanish, and, if practicable, other languages, will be made available.

Centers will offer other programmatic activities, such as:

- Adult educational classes or speakers;
- Groups focused on healthy living; and
- Other organized activities or recreational programs.

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### H. Volunteer Program Involvement

A volunteer group may provide a special recreational or educational program, consistent with security considerations, availability of personnel to supervise participating residents, and sufficient advance notification to the Center Administrator.

The ICE Family Residential Standard on *Visitation* details requirements that must be met for a volunteer to be approved to visit with or provide religious activities for residents.

## References

- ICE Family Residential Standard on Definitions
- ICE Family Residential Standard on Law Libraries and Legal Material
- ICE Family Residential Standard on Program Philosophy, Goals, and Expected Outcomes
- ICE Family Residential Standard on Staff Training
- ICE Family Residential Standard on Visitation