

## Using Dividers to Create Separate Spaces in Child Care Centers

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, child care ratio and group size requirements have been reduced. Programs may wish to divide large spaces or classrooms to accommodate more than one group of children in that space. Programs that use dividers should consider the following, to ensure the safety of the children and to comply with fire and licensing regulations.

### ***Licensing Requirements*** (contact your licensing specialist for assistance)

Dividers should:

- Ensure social distancing and not allow children in one space to come in contact with children in an adjacent space.
- Be made of material that can be cleaned and sanitized.
- Be stable and anchored appropriately.
- Be tall enough (6 feet) to prohibit contact.
- Ensure that the space maintains the required square footage per child for the ages served. Ohio Administrative Code Rule 5101:2-12-11 requires the following:

Age	Square Footage
Infants up to 2.5 years old	35 square feet of floor space per child, per room/area and barrier walls at least 36 inches in height.
Over 2.5 years old	35 square feet of usable wall-to-wall indoor floor space per child that the center is licensed to serve.

### ***Fire Requirements*** (contact your local fire inspector for assistance)

Dividers should:

- Comply with fire codes, especially if they are fabric.
- Not block exits or exit routes for any group sharing the space.
- Not block an egress, pull station, strobe or fire extinguisher on either side.
- Not block sprinkler heads if the facility has them.

### ***Building Requirements*** (contact your local building official for assistance)

Dividers should:

- Not alter the approved building layout if they are permanent. When considering any type of wall element (permanent, temporary, operable or portable), programs should contact their local building department about the need for approval of any proposed alterations.

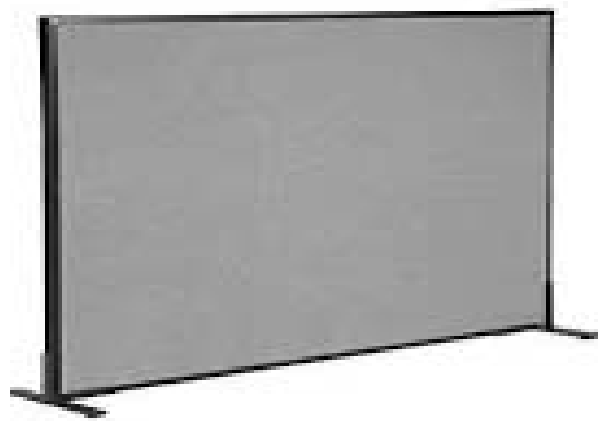
## Commonly Used Dividers

Single stand-alone dividers that can be moved around 360 degrees can be used individually, as shown in Examples 1 and 2. When these dividers are placed together, this changes the structure and may require building approval. Programs are encouraged to contact their local building department prior to purchasing.

**Example 1**



**Example 2**



**Example 3**



**Example 4**

