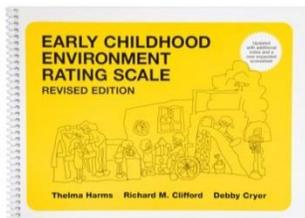


## ENVIRONMENTAL RATING SCALES (ERS) TOOLS

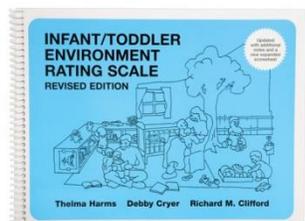
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### ENVIRONMENTAL RATING SCALES

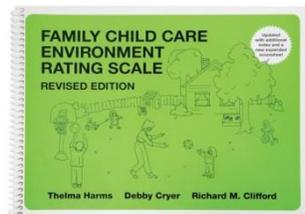
There are four environment rating scales, each designed for a different segment of the early childhood field.



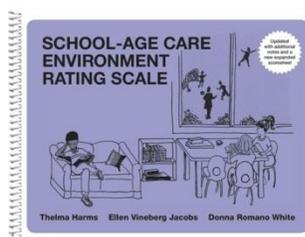
**(ECERS-R)** *The Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised: A thorough revision of the ECERS, designed to assess group programs for preschool-kindergarten aged children, from 2 through 5 years of age. Total scale consists of 43 items.*



**(ITERS-R)** *The Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale-Revised: A thorough revision of the ITERS, designed to assess group programs for children from birth to 2 ½ years of age. Total scale consists of 39 items.*



**(FCCERS-R)** *The Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale-Revised: A thorough revision of the FCCERS, designed to assess family child care programs conducted in a provider's home. Total scale consists of 38 items.*



**(SACERS)** *The School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale: Designed to assess before and after school group care programs for school-age children, 5 to 12 years of age. The total scale consists of 49 items, including 6 supplementary items for programs enrolling children with disabilities.*

The scales are designed to assess process quality and the environment in an early childhood or school age care group. Process quality consists of the various interactions that go on in a classroom between staff and children, staff, parents, and other adults, among the children themselves, and the interactions children have with the many materials and activities in the environment, as well as those features, such as space, schedule and materials that support these interactions. The scales define environment in a broad sense and guide the observer to assess the arrangement of space both indoors and outdoors, the materials and activities offered to the children, the supervision and interactions (including language) that occur in the classroom, and the schedule of the day, including routines and activities.

### EXAMPLE

Each of the scales has *items* to evaluate in 7 *subscales*: *Space and Furnishings* (physical environment); *Personal Care Routines* (basic care); *Listening and Talking*; *Activities* (for children); *Interaction*; *Program Structure* (including schedule and routine); and *Parents and Staff/Provider* (communication and supports).

Programs can score anywhere on the range from 1 to 7 on each *item*, with 1 representing Inadequate, 3 Minimal, 5 Good, and 7 Excellent. Scores are averaged for each *subscale* and to provide an overall score.

FCCERS "Parents and Providers" Section, Item 35 *Provisions for parents* ranges from (partial list only):

- 1.1 No information concerning program given to parents in writing.
- 1.2 Parents discouraged from observing or being involved in children's program.

To

- 7.1 Parents asked for an evaluation of the program annually (Ex. Parent questionnaires, group evaluation meeting).
- 7.2 Parents referred to other professionals when needed (Ex. For special parenting help, for health concerns about a child).
- 7.3 Provider and parents have a conference at least yearly to review child's progress and plan for the future.

**WEBSITE**

For more information, please visit: <http://ers.fpg.unc.edu/about-environment-rating-scales>