



PROGRAM ASSESSMENT RATING SCALE (PARS)

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PITC PARS

Closely aligned with the *Program for Infant Toddler Care* (PITC) concepts, practices, and policies, PARS is designed to assess quality of care before and after PITC training. PARS is available in two versions: one for use in family child care settings, the other for center-based care. Both versions are structured to assess five main components of infant-toddler care, as defined by PITC:

- The quality of caregivers' interaction with infants
- Family partnerships, cultural responsiveness, and inclusion of children with disabilities
- Relationship-based care
- Physical environment
- Routines
- (PARS is being used as an alternative tool to CLASS for children birth to three years old).

EXAMPLE

Each of the five components is divided into several items. For example, the quality of caregivers' interactions with infants is assessed by measuring such things as the caregivers' responsiveness and sensitivity to children, respect for infants' initiatives and choices, and facilitation of language development and communication. The quality of family partnerships is measured by the extent to which the program promotes positive communication with families as well as care that is culturally consistent with and supportive of children's home environments. Relationship-based care is assessed by considering the quality of primary caregiving, the continuity of care, and a caregiver's ability to follow a child's individual schedule.

Finally, each item consists of four sub-items, each of which is scored as either "met" or "not met," depending on information gained through observation and interview. To measure a caregiver's responsiveness and sensitivity to children, for instance, an evaluator must determine whether or not a caregiver responds promptly to children's distress cues. To do so, the evaluator must watch for instances in which children exhibit signs of distress (such as crying, fearful expressions, or agitation) and then rate the consistency and timeliness of the caregiver's responses.

WEBSITE

For more information, please visit WestEd.