

Keeping up with Environment Rating Scale (ERS) Requirements

Keeping up with the requirements in the ERS tools (ITERS-3, ECERS-3 and FCCERS-R) is essential to your continuous quality improvement efforts. Whether you have successfully achieved rating or are in progress towards rating, it's important to consider the steps needed to maintain new changes and continue efforts to improve your ERS scores. The following tips can support your work in this area:

Before your rating observation

- Review your baseline ERS scores and look at what changes have already been made; consider how these changes are being maintained and if they are part of your regular practice
- Determine your priority areas by thinking about items and materials that will make the most impact on your scores and that fit within your budget
- Develop a specific plan to address these priority items in each subscale
- Encourage teachers to complete peer observations focusing on these specific items or subscales
- Plan for lunch and learn discussions to support continued growth for staff in these areas
- Consider a plan to repeat this process on a quarterly basis

After your rating observation

- Review your rating report for recommendations to help guide your CQI plan
- Consider a plan that will have staff reassess the furnishings and materials in their classrooms to assure these meet or exceed the ERS requirements
- Budget for items that need to be replaced or supplemented based on the Furniture & Materials Inventories
- Consider a system for more frequent walkthrough observations focusing on specific items. Many items like checking for five clearly defined interest areas, how the staff are supporting math/language skills, and transitions can be observed periodically throughout the year
- Plan for the annual review of ERS in all classrooms and more frequent informal observations as needed
- Continue to support staff through lunch and learns or offering reflective practice groups



Staff create a clearly defined interest area, inclusive of inexpensive natural materials. Classroom materials are reviewed regularly to ensure a successful learning environment for all children (Better Beginnings Child Development Center).

Use the links below to get updated notes for clarification for ITERS-3 and ECERS-3

ITERS-3 updated July 2018 - https://www.ersi.info/iters3_notes.html

ECERS-3 updated August 2018 - https://www.ersi.info/ecers3_notes.html