



What to Expect During an ERS Assessment Visit

What are the Environment Rating Scales (ERS)?

The scales are research-based observation tools designed to assess what children experience in their early childhood and school age programs. These are the four scales that Oregon is using:

- Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS-3) -- birth to 12 years old
- Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS-3) -- birth to 3 years old
- Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS-3) -- 3 to 5 years old
- School-Age Environment Rating Scale (SACERS-U) -- 5 to 12 years old

How are the ERS being used in Oregon?

- Assessment results will highlight program strengths and can be used to guide the program's Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) and help set program goals.
- Data from the ERS assessment reports will provide valuable information for understanding the quality of child care in Oregon.
- Assessments do not impact licensing, Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) subsidies, or Spark ratings.

About the ERS Assessment Visit

- The assessor needs to observe a typical day in your program during their visit. Early educators should do whatever they would typically do and not alter the schedule in any way if possible.
- The assessor will observe the program for 3 hours. After the observation ends, the assessor may need to observe the gross motor space(s) if unused during the assessment.
- The assessor will arrive approximately 15 minutes in advance of the scheduled observation to greet program staff and to gather required information for the assessment.
- The assessor will inform the program staff when to expect assessment results.
- Sometimes more than one assessor will be present for training purposes and to ensure reliability.

During the Assessment Visit

- The assessor will not be able to interact with the program staff or children during the observation.
- The assessor will be taking notes on a tablet or clipboard.
- The assessor will look at materials in the classroom/program.
- The assessor will look at any spaces used by the program, including indoor and outdoor spaces.
- The assessor will observe interactions, activities, and routines.
- The assessor will observe mealtime routines, hand washing, and diapering/toileting.

After the Assessment Visit

- Typically, ERS assessment results will be provided to you within four weeks. During the observation, the assessor is only gathering information. The final results are not determined until the assessor has the opportunity to review the notes and prepare the report.
- ERS assessments are intended to provide objective feedback about what was observed during the 3-hour assessment. The report will include program strengths and opportunities for growth.
- A program can use the report for determining their own continuous quality improvement goals.
- A program may reach out to a Quality Improvement Specialist or other early learning professional at their local CCR&R with questions and/or for additional support.
- If a program has concerns about their ERS assessment results, they may communicate with the assessor who conducted the assessment.

For questions about the ERS Assessment, call Gabriela Lemus-Macias at 503-751-4036 or email at lemusmaciasg@wou.edu