Which Type of Observation is Best for My Program?

Early learning programs can choose which type of assessment they would like to have. Here is a summary of the differences between the two observation tools.

CLASS **Classroom Assessment Scoring System**	**ERS** **Environment Rating Scales**

A tool for assessing effective adult-child interactions. CLASS measures 3 types of interactions:
• **Emotional Support** – how adults support children's social-emotional needs, including:
  ○ create a positive environment.
  ○ are sensitive to children's needs.
  ○ allow children to direct their own learning.
• **Classroom Organization** – how adults support behavior, manage time, use routines and transitions, and enhance children's engagement.
• **Instructional Support** – how adults stimulate children's cognitive and language development, provide individualized teaching, and scaffold children's learning.
	A tool for assessing what children experience in programs including interactions, environment, and structure. The ERS measures:
	• **Space and Furnishings** – the physical features and arrangement of the space.
	• **Personal Care Routines** – health and safety practices including meals, diapering, toileting, sanitation, and supervision.
	• **Language, Literacy, and Books** – how adults support children's language development and provide literacy experiences for them.
	• **Activities** – how learning materials and activities are provided for children.
	• **Interaction** – how adults supervise children, interact with them, provide individualized teaching, support behavior, and support interaction among children.
	• **Program Structure** – how features like schedules, transitions, free play, and group times support children.

Feedback will focus on interactions between adults and children.	Feedback will focus on safety, care routines, the environment, activities and materials, interactions, and the program schedule.
Types of CLASS Assessments used in Oregon: • **Pre-K – 3rd** (3 years through 3rd grade) There is not a CLASS option for programs serving mixed ages in the same groups. All children in the program must be preschool age or older.	Types of ERS Assessments used in Oregon: • **Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale – ITERS-3** (Birth – 3 years) for center-based classrooms • **Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale – ECERS-3** (3 – 5 years) for center-based classrooms • **Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale – FCCERS-3** (Birth –12 years) for home-based programs
The observation lasts about 2 hours. Observers will watch for 20 minutes and then leave the room for about 10 minutes to score. They will repeat this process for 4 cycles.	The observation lasts 3 hours. If no meal or snack is observed, observers will stay until one is served. If observers do not see outdoor play, they will need to check the outdoor space.
Either tool will provide objective feedback about your program strengths. You will also get information about how to strengthen your program based on what observers saw.	