

ERS Scales-What are they?

Quality Childcare Starts with Understanding the Environment Rating Scales

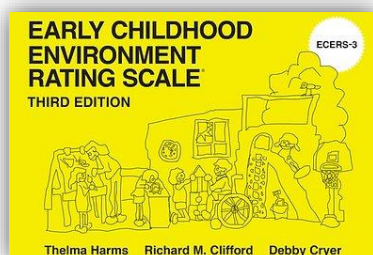
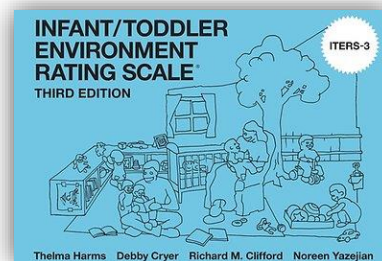
The ERS scales are designed to assess process quality in an early childhood or school age care group. Process quality consists of the various interactions that go on in a classroom between staff and children, staff, parents, and other adults, among the children themselves, and the interactions children 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. Process quality is assessed primarily through observation and has been found to be more predictive of child outcomes than structural indicators such as staff to child ratio, group size, cost of care, and even type of care, for example child care center or family child care home. (Whitebook, Howes & Phillips, 1995).

ITERS-3 (Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale, Third Edition)

For: Child Care Programs for Infants and Toddlers

Age: Birth to 36 months

Assesses: The quality of care in environments for babies and toddlers, focusing on aspects like personal care routines, teacher-child interactions, and developmentally appropriate activities.



ECERS-3 (Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale, Third Edition)

For: Preschool Programs

Ages: 3 to 5

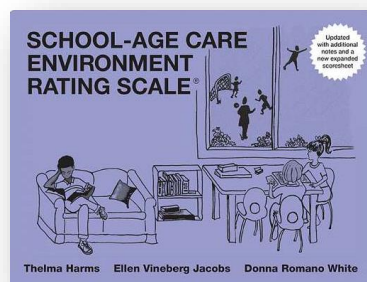
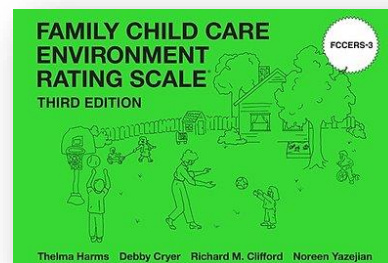
Assesses: The physical space, learning activities, language development, and interaction quality in preschool programs to promote cognitive, emotional, and social growth.

FCCERS-3 (Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale, Third Edition)

For: Home-based childcare providers

Ages: Infancy to age 12

Assesses: Space and furnishings, daily care routines, and ensuring a safe and enriching environment for young children.



SACERS-U (School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale)

For: School-Age Programs

Ages: 5 to 12

Assesses: Childcare environments for school-age children, focusing on aspects like activity variety, health and safety, staff interactions, and program structure to support children's care.