



# Exploring the Environment Rating Scales

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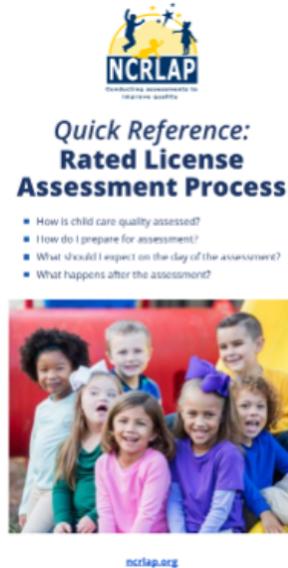
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# Quick Reference Guide



## Important resources for all assessments

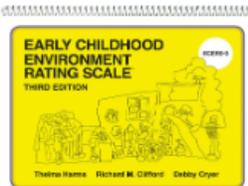
Resources applicable to all rating scales.

1. About the assessment process (video) 🎥
2. Handwashing and other basic health considerations (video) 🎥
3. Language for learning: Infants and Toddlers (video) 🎥
4. Requirements for Gross Motor Space and Equipment 📄
5. Safe space for gross motor play (video) 🎥
6. USDA Meal Pattern Guidelines for Children 1 to 12 years 📄
7. Using materials with non-mobile infants (video) 🎥

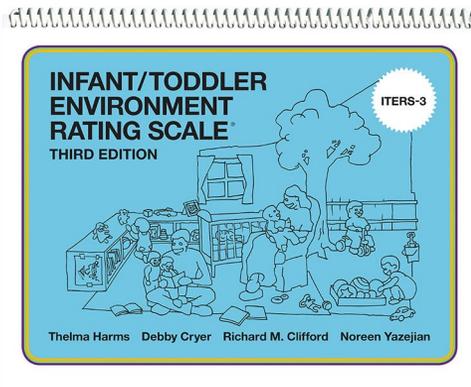
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Below are the most important resources for each rating scale.

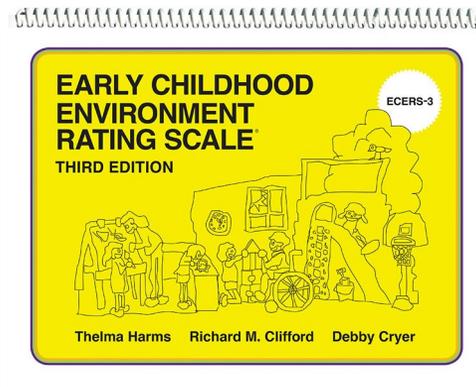
## ECERS-3: For children 3 years through 5 years old



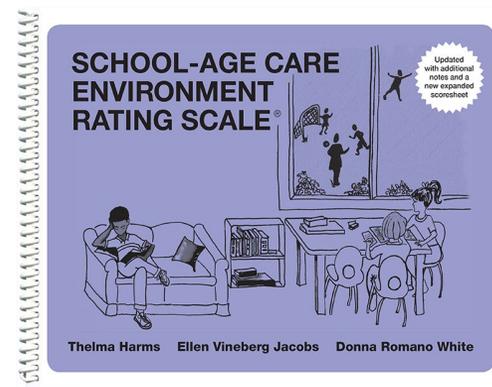
1. ECERS-3: Free play and Access 📄
2. ECERS-3: Materials list 📄
3. Getting to know the ECERS-3 📄
4. Getting to Know the ECERS-3 (Spanish Version) 📄
5. NC Additional Notes ECERS-3 (1-9-26) 📄
6. Thinking More about Activities ECERS-3 📄
7. Thinking More about Interaction ECERS-3 📄
8. Thinking More about Language and Literacy ECERS-3 📄
9. Thinking More about Personal Care Routines ECERS-3 📄



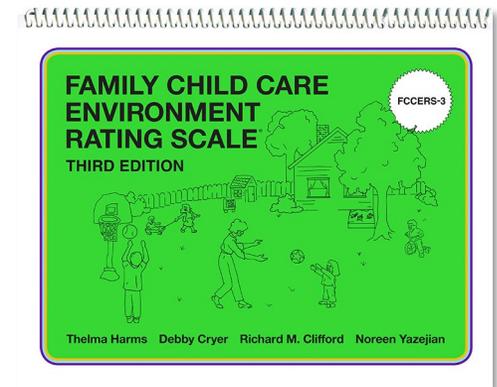
**ITERS-3:** Infants and toddlers from birth through 35 months of age



**ECERS-3:** Preschool children 3 through 5 years old



**SACERS-U:** School age children 5 to 12 years old



**FCCERS-3:** Home childcare programs for children ages birth-12 years

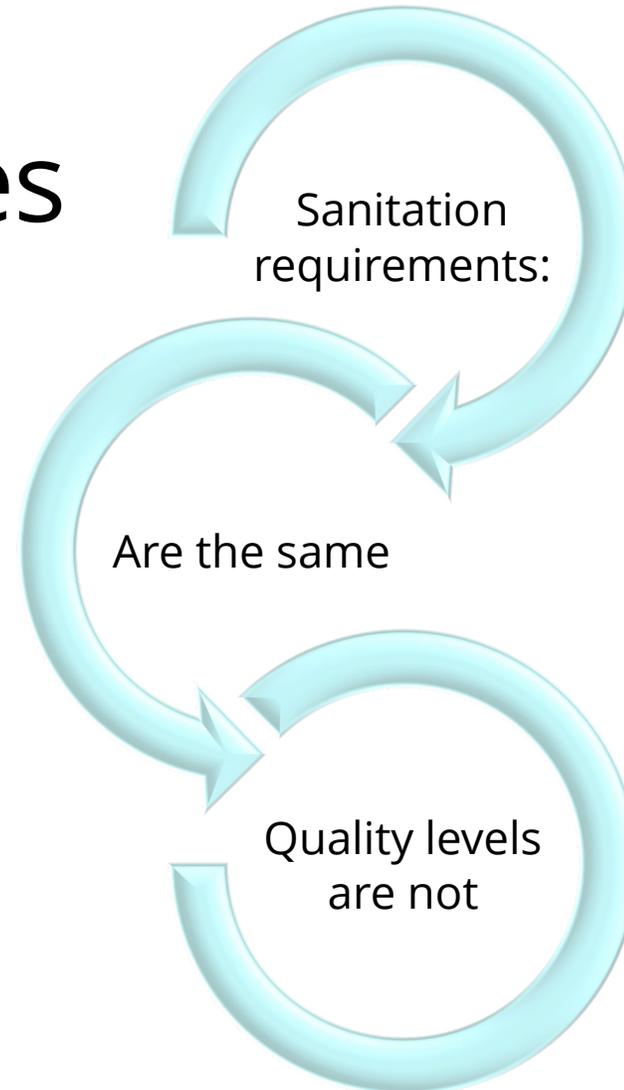
# The Environment Rating Scales



# Why Environment Rating Scales?



# Personal care routines



# Meals/snacks

- Close, pleasant supervision of children
- Water is offered to children between snacks/meals
- Sanitation practices followed
- Appropriate foods are served
- Staff encourage learning



# Meals/snacks



Talking about math



Children encouraged to be independent and learn self-help

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# Diapering/toileting

- Refer to the NC Child Care Health & Safety Resource Center Poster
- Handwashing for children and teachers after each change



“I’m putting on your clean diaper and then we will wash your hands.”



“Step into your pull-up leg one, now leg two.”



# Nap considerations

- Sanitation concerns
- Safety



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# Nap continued

- Sleep surfaces should all be spaced at least 3 feet apart or separated by a solid barrier.
- Nap items should be stored in a manner that reduces cross-contamination.



# Health practices

## Handwashing:

- Upon arrival at school and re-entry to the classroom
- After contact with bodily fluids
- After messy play (finger painting, chalk)
- Before and after play with wet materials (play-dough, water play)
- After contact with contaminated surfaces (trash can lids, pets, mouthed toys)



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# Health practices

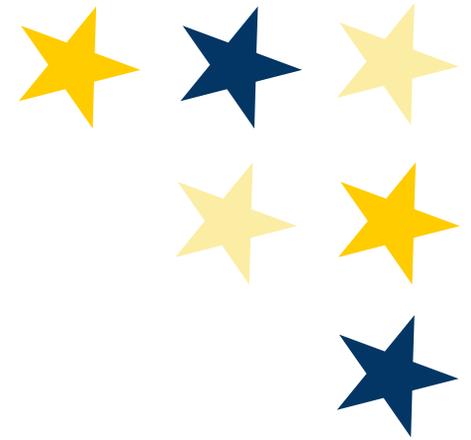
- Use poster to help guide handwashing (point out the steps in sequential order)
- Get 2 pumps of soap
- Sing a handwashing song with numbers



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# Safety practices

- Diapering table edge should be at least 6 inches high
- Avoid spraying bleach solution near children
- Small part choking hazards should not be accessible to children younger than 3 years old
- Food choking hazards should be served to children younger than 4 years old
- Appropriately support children and avoid lifting them by their arms
- Review NCRLAP's Requirements for Gross Motor Space and Equipment



# Safety practices



Simple explanations for why children should make safe choices

# Putting it all together...



- Make decisions based on what is developmentally appropriate for children and use the ERS as a helpful framework.
- The quality level is the result of the overall sum of many factors, not just one item or indicator.
- Know your strengths and areas that need improvement:
  - Know what needs enhancement.
  - Acknowledge what is not easily changed.

**Connect with  
us anytime:**

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**Website:** [ncrlap.org](http://ncrlap.org)



# References

Harms, T., Clifford, R., & Cryer, D. (2015). Early childhood environment rating scale: Third edition. New York, NY: Teachers College Press.

Harms, T., Cryer, D., Clifford, R., and Yazejian, N. (2019). Family child care environment rating scale: Third edition. New York, NY: Teachers College Press.

Harms, T., Cryer, D., Clifford, R. & Yazejian, N. (2017). Infant/toddler environment rating scale: Third edition. New York, NY: Teachers College Press.

Harms, T., Jacobs, E. & White, D. (2014). School-age care environment rating scale: Updated edition. New York, NY: Teachers College Press.

NC Additional Notes for Clarification (n.d.). Retrieved from a link in the resources section of the North Carolina Rated License Assessment web site at <http://www.ncrlap.org>.