

ENVIRONMENT Quality Standard—Family Home/Group



The ENVIRONMENT Quality Standard measures health, safety, and environment through the *Environment Rating Scales* (ERS). Environment is a standard of quality because children spend their day in a physical setting, the environment. The way children are cared for and the activities and materials available for them in that setting have a profound effect on their development. The ERS are used as an evaluation tool because they are comprehensive, reliable, and valid instruments that assess quality and measure what is observed to be happening in a classroom. The *Classroom Summary Reports* you receive from the assessments will help you set goals to improve the quality of the environment.

The assessor will work with you to identify a two-week window for the assessments; two black-out dates will be honored during this window. More than half of the children must be in attendance on the day of the assessment and if an infant is enrolled, the infant must be present.

Documents needed to complete this section: *Environment Rating Scale* score and *Classroom Summary Report*

Terms:

- **ERS: *Environment Rating Scales*** (ITERS-R, ECERS-R, FCCERS-R, and SACERS)
 - ITERS-R – *Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale*, revised (Birth-30 months)
 - ECERS-R – *Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale*, revised (2 ½ -5 years)
 - FCCERS-R – *Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale*, revised (for family child care homes)
- **ERS Score:** *Environment Rating Scale* scores range from 1 (inadequate) through 7 (excellent). Each item will have an explanation of the score with concrete examples from the observation. **Scores are based on the current situation that is observed or reported by staff, not on future plans**
- **Classroom Summary Report:** The report received after an *Environment Rating Scale* assessment. The *Classroom Summary Report* contains the ERS score, a general description of the classroom and special circumstances, documentation of strengths (those indicators with a score of 5 or more), and documentation for those indicators needing improvement (those with a score of 4 or less)

Environment Quality Indicators

Not yet at Tier 1 <input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Tier 1 <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Environment Rating Scale</i> score at least 3.0 <i>Attach cover sheet of Classroom Summary Report</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tier 2 <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Environment Rating Scale</i> score 3.50-3.99 <i>Attach cover sheet of Classroom Summary Report</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tier 3 <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Environment Rating Scale</i> score 4.0-4.99 <i>Attach cover sheet of Classroom Summary Report</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tier 4 <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Environment Rating Scale</i> score 5.0-5.49 <i>Attach cover sheet of Classroom Summary Report</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tier 5 <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Environment Rating Scale</i> score 5.5 or above <i>Attach cover sheet of Classroom Summary Report</i>

Directions:

1. Look at the *Classroom Summary Report* that you received from the assessment.
2. Compare the score to the quality indicators for Environment on the grid above.
 - Begin by looking at the indicator in Tier 1. Ask yourself if the indicator is true for the facility.
 - If the answer is 'yes', it is true at this time, check the box and gather the supporting materials to submit with the completed application. The materials you need are listed in red beneath the indicator.
 - If the answer is 'no', it is not true at this time, leave the box empty.
 - If the indicator in Tier 1 is NOT in place, check the **Not yet at Tier 1** box.
 - If the indicator is checked in Tier 1, check the Tier 1 box; if the indicator in Tiers 1 & 2 are in place, check the Tier 2 box, and so on.
4. Transfer the information to the *Environment* Standard section on the *Application for a Facility Profile*.



Helpful Hints

- A sample *Classroom Summary Report* can be found at www.idahostars.org
- Training on each scale is available through IdahoSTARS. Call your Regional Consultant for trainings in each region.
- For more information about the *Environment Rating Scales* go to www.fpg.unc.edu or contact the Idaho AEYC Assessment Specialist at 208-345-1090 x 11



WHAT TO SEND IN:

- **The *Environment Quality Standard* section of the *Application for a Facility Profile***
- **A copy of the top page of the *Classroom Summary Report***