

## **Technical Assistance: First Things First**

If the FCCERS-R score is below 3.0 on the *Environment Rating Scale*, a Technical Assistance Plan must be developed to address immediate needs relating to health and safety. On the scales, a score of 3.0 indicates an overall environment quality score of *minimal*.

In order to meet Tier 1 requirements, the *Environment Rating Scale* score must be at least 3.0. To ensure that basic health and safety needs are being met, the IdahoSTARS Assessment Specialist will work directly with a facility until minimal environment standards are met – only then will the *QRIS Improvement Plan* and *Funding Request* be considered.

### **Q: What happens if my home or group child care scores below 3.0 on the *Family Child Care ERS* assessment?**

A: All *Environment Rating Scale* reports are reviewed by the IdahoSTARS Assessment Specialist, and any score of 3.0 will be flagged for Technical Assistance. The Assessment Specialist will contact the owner to plan how to proceed. The Assessment Specialist will consult with you to manage the areas that need improvement. She is also available for site visits, report reviews, and to answer questions about the scales. The Assessment Specialist will work closely with a mentor/coach that is working with the provider.

### **Q: Is funding available through Technical Assistance?**

A: Yes! The Assessment Specialist will help develop an improvement plan. She will work with the provider to identify needs, set goals and request funding, if necessary. Items needing improvement can quickly move to strengths with small changes in practice and may not require funding.

### **Q: When will the *QRIS Improvement Plan* and *Funding Request* be considered?**

A: When the Technical Assistance Plan has been implemented, the child care will be reassessed, using the regular assessment process (choosing a two-week window). When the classroom scores 3.0 or above, the facility *QRIS Improvement Plan* and *Funding Request* can be submitted.