



## **Environment Rating Scale (ERS®)**

### **What is ERS?**

ERS focuses on the typical daily experiences of children in early childhood and school-age settings. The assessment considers how teacher engagement, the spaces and equipment used by the children, accessible play materials, and children's activities combine to enhance learning. The ERS instruments are comprised of subscales and items. ERS items include observable and/or reportable indicators that reflect consistently occurring quality practices and provisions:

- Indoor and outdoor space and furnishings
- Interactions and activities to support social-emotional and cognitive development
- Program structure including transitions and schedules
- Personal care routines including health and safety practices
- Supports for parents and staff
- Supports for language and literacy development

### **Which program(s) could use ERS?**

ERS can be used in all early childhood and school-age settings. The age specific ERS instruments used in Pennsylvania include:

- ITERS-R: Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale - Revised (birth-36 months)
- ECERS-R: Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale - Revised (37 months-K.)
- ECERS-3: Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale - Third Edition (37 months -K.)
- SACERS-U: School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale - Updated (school-age)
- FCCERS-R: Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale - Revised (birth-school-age in a residential setting)

*\*Age ranges for ERS have been aligned to Pennsylvania Department of Human Service Child Care regulations age levels.*

### **ERS Assessment Process**

External ERS assessments are conducted by a reliable ERS Assessor from the Program Quality Assessment (PQA) team.

Internal ERS assessments are conducted by the program's internal assessment team. Programs partner with the Quality Coach and PQA team when planning for and conducting internal assessment, and when analyzing the information collected during the internal assessment process.

The ERS assessment is primarily a 3 to 4-hour observation in the indoor and outdoor spaces used by children. The assessment may also consider other onsite and offsite space and information shared during a teacher interview.

### **How does ERS support Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)?**

Information gathered during an ERS assessment can be used by the program to help identify strengths in the classroom environment and positive teacher interactions, as well as areas for growth. The information gathered can also be used to help create the program's continuous quality improvement plan.

### **Additional Information/Training**

Additional information on the ERS instruments, including downloadable documents and resources may be found at:

<http://www.ersi.info/>

[Program Quality Assessment Professional Development Catalog](#)