Developmental Environment Rating Scale (DERS©)

What is DERS?

The DERS is a classroom observation tool which measures qualities such as patience and persistence in children, precision and clarity in lessons, and order in the environment, which support the development of executive functions, literacy, and social-emotional learning. DERS is separated into two levels: early childhood and elementary. DERS is a 1-hour timed observation and conducted via an iPad app.

DERS encompasses five domains:
1. Initiation/Concentration
2. Inhibitory Control
3. Working Memory
4. Linguistic/Cultural Fluency
5. Social fluency & emotional flexibility

The DERS consists of 60 items in three observation categories:
- Child Behaviors
- Adult Behaviors
- Environmental Attributes

Which program(s) could use DERS?

DERS can be used in group or center-based programs. It measures quality of learning environments of children ages 3-12 years. The DERS was designed with programs who operate under a Montessori philosophy in mind. Although designed initially for Montessori programs, many of the concepts are universal and can easily be transferred to early childhood and early elementary environments.

How does DERS support Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)?

The information gathered from a DERS assessment can be used by a program to help identify positive teacher interactions, as well as areas for improvement.

Additional Information/Training

Additional information on DERS can be found at:
https://www.ders-app.org/

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