



Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) Classroom Assessments



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Environmental Rating Scales (ERS) classroom reviews are used to determine the quality of care provided in classroom settings. The **Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)** report that is sent to providers after each assessment includes each classroom's score, areas of strength, and opportunities for growth

It is highly recommended that providers participate in regular technical assistance and complete self-assessments during the two years following an ERS review. These years are considered growth years and are the best time to continue enhancing quality and working toward goals.

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Better Beginnings and ERS Classroom Assessments

You will submit a Better Beginnings **Intent to Apply form** to let A-State Childhood Services know that you plan to apply for Better Beginnings. An ERS consultant will contact you when your 60-day window is open.

- You should inform the assessor of any days the program will be closed, such as spring break, as well as any days that will have a non-typical schedule, such as field trips or photo days. Please note, days when a teacher or assistant are absent are not considered non-typical days.
- The ERS visit will be unannounced.
- 1/3 of the classrooms serving each age group will be assessed. Rooms are selected randomly.
- The assessor will follow one group of children for about 3 hours.
- Before or after the observation, the assessor might spend some additional time looking at the materials in the classroom.
- The assessor will remain neutral and quiet throughout the observation.
- About three weeks after your environmental assessment, you will receive a **Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) report** for each assessment via email. Upload these reports (or only the cover sheet and score sheet) with your application in your ELS portal to document that the assessment(s) was completed within the last 12 months and the required average was achieved.

ITERS-Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ages B-36 months)

ECERS-Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ages 3-5)

SACERS-School Age Environment Rating Scale (K-3rd grade)

For more information, go to: <https://www.ersi.info/>

Required average

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|---------|---|-----|
| Level 2 | ■ | 3.0 |
| Level 3 | ■ | 4.0 |
| Level 4 | ■ | 5.0 |
| Level 5 | ■ | 5.5 |
| Level 6 | ■ | 6.0 |

Child Care Centers may choose to use YPQI assessments or SACERS/PAS for their school-age program.