Family Childcare Environmental Rating Scale (FCCERS-3)

What is the FCCERS-3?

FCCERS-3 is an observation tool that assesses the quality of the overall learning environment. This scale looks at family homes caring for children from birth to 12 years of age by collecting data through program observations and the materials that are accessible throughout the observation.

The assessment is a six subscale with 35-item rating scale. Each item is ranked from one to seven. A ranking of one is described as inadequate quality while a ranking of seven describes excellent quality, with the scores of minimal and good qualities being three and 5. The subscales are as follows:

- Space and Furnishings
- Personal Care Routines
- Language and Literacy
- Learning Activities
- Interaction
- Program Structure

Which program(s) could use the FCCERS-3?

The FCCERS-3 is appropriately used to provide reflective feedback for family childcare programs supporting children birth to 12 years of age.

ITERS-3 Self-Reflection:

With support from the QCSD coaches, family child care providers and helpers can use the Environment Rating Scale (ERS) as a self-reflection tool by assessing the quality of the program environment and daily practices through a structured lens. It encourages family child care providers to identify strengths, recognize areas for improvement, and set intentional goals to enhance children's learning experiences.

How does FCCERS-3 support continuous quality improvement?

An ERS assessment supports Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) by providing a clear, objective snapshot of a program's current practices and environment. The detailed feedback helps programs identify specific strengths and areas needing enhancement, which can then be used to set targeted CQI goals, track progress over time, and make informed decisions that directly improve child outcomes and overall program quality.

*These practices are from the FCCERS-3 Edition which contains the most current research-based information.

Last Updated July 2025