Infant and Toddler Environmental Rating Scale (ITERS-3)

What is the ITERS-3?

The ITERS-3 is an observation tool that evaluates the quality of the overall learning environment. This scale looks at children from birth to 35 months of age by collecting data through classroom observations and the materials that are accessible.

The assessment is a six-subscale, 35-item rating scale. Each item is ranked from one to seven. A one is described as inadequate quality, while a ranking of seven describes excellent quality, with the scores of minimal and good being three and five. 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 ITERS-3?

The ITERS-3 is appropriately used for childcare programs, specifically covering classrooms serving birth to 35 months of age.

ITERS-3 Self-Reflection:

With support from the QCSD coaches, program leadership and staff will use the Environment Rating Scale (ERS) as a self-reflection tool by helping teachers assess the quality of their classroom environment and daily practices through a structured lens. It encourages staff to identify strengths, recognize areas for improvement, and set intentional goals to enhance children's learning experiences.

How does ITERS-3 support continuous quality improvement (CQI)?

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 ITERS-3 Edition which contains the most current research-based information.