



## Engaging Environments Workgroups – Eastern Region

### LEARNING COMMUNITY CONTENT + SCHEDULE

The engagement of children in meaningful learning and play, guided by qualified caregivers in an enriched educational environment, has an impact on school readiness. Environment is assessed through an on-site classroom observation by a certified/reliable Virginia Quality Rater using the Environment Rating Scale (ERS). The ERS measures the level of process quality by assessing indicators like: **materials** and **activities** offered to children; **supervision** and **interactions** (including language) that occur in the classroom; **schedule** of the day (including routines and activities).

High quality early learning programs regularly assess their performance to determine what changes they can make to improve their services. The Level 3 self-study process is a guided format for assessing your program's performance and identifying where you want to make improvements. This workgroup provides opportunities for you to collaborate and reflect as a group with other programs who are also working on their self-studies. These communities are facilitated by Virginia Quality Specialists who have expertise in the ERS and how they relate to both interactions and curriculum.

**Participation in an Engaging Environments Workgroup will prepare you as a Director or Teacher to reflect on the environment, materials and activities at your program. It will also support the completion of the ERS Self-Study required for Virginia Quality.**

**Attendees will receive a certificate for 7 training hours and support from Virginia Quality Technical Assistance Providers via group sessions and follow up phone calls or on-site assistance.**

## REGISTRATION

Children's Harbor Training Department  
or [ONLINE](#)

**(757) 399-1337**

Participants must attend all of the sessions for the selected workgroup.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

# SESSION 1

## Enriched Environments

3 hours

### Content

Virginia Quality uses the Environmental Rating Scales (ERS) to measure and assess the level of process quality in the environments of early learning programs. The ERS is available for infant/toddler (ITERS-R), early childhood (ECERS-R), family child care (FCCERS-R) settings. This session will introduce you to the scales and the specific terms used in the tools. A particular focus will be on the Language Reasoning/Listening Talking, Interaction, and Program Structure subscales and the related sections within the Virginia Quality ERS Self-Study form.

### Requirements

- Completion of the following Virginia Quality Learnpoint Modules prior to Session attendance
  - Orientation to Virginia's QRIS (.5hrs)
  - Introduction to Intentional Teaching (.5hrs)
  - Play Based Learning Environments (.5hrs)
  - Introduction to the Self Study Process (.5hrs)

# SESSION 2

## Engaging Activities

3 hours

### Content

As we continue to discuss ERS, this session will focus on how quality learning is impacted by the number and type of materials available to children and the activities they are involved in throughout the day. What does having **accessible** materials mean in the context of ERS? What's the difference between **some**, **many**, and **varied**? How do you know if you are meeting the **much of the day** or **substantial portion of the day** requirements? The focus will be on understanding the Activity subscale and making connections to developmentally appropriate lesson plans.

### Requirements

- Bring with you to Session 2:
  - ITERS-R, ECERS-R or FCCERS-R Scale (spiral) and All About as they apply to your program.
  - Your Virginia Quality Self-Study Form with Language Reasoning or Listening & Talking, Interaction, and Program Structure Subscale sections completed.

# SCHEDULE

## Learning Communities and Working Chats

All group *Learning Community Sessions* are scheduled for Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 – 4:00pm.

Short, 30-minute *Working Chats* are scheduled following each session during afternoon nap time to answer questions, provide feedback, and support your understanding of the Learning Session content.

Fall Workgroup		Fall 2016	
SESSION	DATE	LOCATION	WORKING CHAT – <i>via phone</i>
Session 1	Wednesday, October 12 <sup>th</sup>	TCC VB Student Ctr K304	October 19 <sup>th</sup>
Session 2	Wednesday, November 9 <sup>th</sup>	TCC VB Student Ctr K304	November 16 <sup>th</sup>

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