Supporting Excellence in Early Education

Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale-3rd Edition (ITERS-3)

Explanation of Terms

Accessible: During the observation, children can reach and use the required material or equipment. A material simply being present in the classroom does not necessarily mean that it is "accessible." Regular practice should be to provide access almost all the time children are ready to play, unless engaged in another activity they enjoy

Restrictive Furnishing: Seats, highchairs, cribs, or swings that are designed to calm infants. Infants should not be placed in these restrictive items for long periods of time.

Lapse: A lapse in access occurs when children are prevented from using materials when they are awake, are not involved in routine care, are ready to play, and not receiving positive interaction from the provider. This includes waiting/transitions and non-engaging group times.

Weather Permitting: Means there is no public health warning due to temperatures that are too high or too low, or active precipitation such as rain or snow. Scheduled outdoors time should be modified so children can go out if the weather allows.

Engaged: Means children are interested and paying attention, which is different than just being quiet and well-behaved. Children may lay or sit quietly but unless they show interest in some way, they are not actually engaged.

Ample: Children have plenty of space to move freely and enough materials and furnishings for the number of children enrolled in the group (not just present on the day of the observation). Ex: Cubbies large enough to hold all personal belongings.

Resources:

- Great Start to Quality ERS webpage
- Purchase an ITERS-3 Scale Book for $25.95
- Sign-up for the Loop for information, news and resources from Great Start to Quality
- Email Kristen Howard, Assessment Manager, Great Start to Quality, ERS State Anchor

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