



**COLORADO
SHINES**
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START STRONG
QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

Environment Rating Scale (ERS) Requirements for Demonstrated Competencies Scoring (ITERS – R/3, ECERS – R/3, FCCERS – R/3)

Observer Qualifications:

- Currently certified on the tool being used
- **Documentation required:** Copy of certification certificate from Clayton Early Learning specific to the tool used and current on day of the observation. For more information on this process, click on this link: <https://www.claytonearlylearning.org/quality-assessment-services/inter-rater-reliability-team/>

Protocol

- Observation of at least 2 ½ hours with the number and ages of children required by the specific tool. It is a good idea to contact the program ahead of time to find out what time nap is and base the three hours off of that time.
- Observers must use the current [Colorado Notes for Clarification](#), including playground safety guidelines for the tool that they are using.
- At least 50% of the children who normally attend on the day of observation are in attendance.
- Age guidelines for the tools are:
 - ITERS: 0-3 years
 - ECERS: 3-5 years
 - FCCERS: 0-12 years
 - If it is a mixed age classroom of older toddlers, if over 50% of them are over the age of 3 years, then you should use an ECERS. If it is exactly 50%, let the teachers decide which tool to use. If it is under 50%, use ITERS.
- Observers must score all indicators regardless of the item score, using the ERSI score sheet for that tool. All scoresheets are available at <https://www.ersi.info/> (click on the appropriate tool and select Supplementary Materials).
- Observers must ensure that they are following ERS requirements, including washing their own hands correctly upon entering the classroom/family child care home. All extra items brought into the classroom/home i.e. coat, purse, etc. should be kept on the observer's body or placed in a safe area. Click [HERE](#) for information on ERS Certification.
- In addition to the rating scale and score sheets, observers should bring with them a measuring tape, meat thermometer, a trowel or other device to measure surfacing depth, head entrapment probes, and a choke tube.



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- Observers should check outdoor spaces for safety and equipment, regardless of whether the program uses the area that day.
- Follow the “Administration of the Scale” guidelines listed in each tool. If you have questions about this, you can email the Clayton Interrater Reliability Team at ERSscheduling@claytonearlylearning.org.

Scoring Thresholds:

The overall score for the observation must be included on the [Demonstrated Competencies Scoring Submission Form](#) and on submitted score sheets.

ITERS-R/3, ECERS-R/3, FCCERS-R/3 Overall Scores:

3.75 – 4.74 = 2 points

4.75 – 5.74 = 5 points

5.75 – 7.00 = 10 points

Additional Notes:

When a program receives an ERS evaluation as part of a QRIS Rating, Demonstrated Competency points cannot be entered in time to affect the Credentials that will contribute to the QRIS Rating. This is due to ERS appeals issues and the production timeline for the QRIS Rating.

For questions and/or more information, please contact the PDIS Help Desk at 1.844.447.4441, option 2 or pdishelp@cde.state.co.us

