**ECERS-3 and ITERS-3 Certification FAQ**

**What is a certification?**

Certification on an Environment Rating Scale (ERS) is a way to demonstrate a depth of knowledge on an ERS scale. The actual certification is a paper certificate signed by an Inter-Rater Reliability (IRR) Team member declaring certification on that scale.

**What are the benefits to certification?**

Certification on an ERS scale demonstrates a level of understanding on the scale that cannot be achieved through a training alone. The live observation is an opportunity to ask questions and be mentored by a Clayton IRR Team member who obtains reliability each year with the authors (ERSI) of the Environmental Rating Scales.

**What are the requirements?**

To receive an ECERS-3 or ITERS-3 certificate, you must attend a Clayton facilitated full day training based on the scale you wish to become certified on. As we make the switch from ECERS-R and ITERS-R to ECERS-3 and ITERS-3, the state is funding free trainings through October 2019.

**How much does certification cost?**

With the switch to the new scales, the state is funding free certifications for Colorado Shines Certified Coaches throughout Colorado through December 2019. After this date, certifications will cost $280.00 for local counties. If you would like one of our team members to travel to your county (if it is not in the Denver Metro area), we will send you a cost estimate with travel costs included.

**What does a certification day consist of?**

On the day of certification, you will meet with a member of the Clayton IRR team at a predetermined time, at a predetermined location. You and your team member will do a live, three-hour observation utilizing the ERS scoresheet and scale. Following the observation, you and your team member will find a quiet place to score your observation (usually a restaurant or office). You will then compare scores to ensure a solid understanding of the ERS scale that was used. Plan for a full eight hour day for certification (although sometimes you may finish sooner). Please note, this process is intended to be a learning opportunity, thus, questions and discussions are encouraged throughout the observation and during the scoring portion afterwards.

**Are there any other steps?**

Following the scoring portion of the certification, a feedback report will be written and delivered to the program that was observed. Your IRR Team member will send you a report template and a sample report to assist in this process, and walk you through writing of the report. The report will consist of strengths and areas of improvement noted during the observation. After you have completed the report, you will send it to your Clayton IRR Team member for edits. Reports are due two weeks after the observation and will be returned to you within 2 weeks after the observation. Once a report is edited and finalized, you will receive your official ERS Certificate; certifying you for one year.

**Where do these observations occur?**

For the free certifications during the Retooling process, you are responsible for finding a program to observe for your ECERS-3 and/or ITERS-3 observations. After December 2019, we would be happy to observe at a site of your choosing, but if you would like assistance finding a site, we are also happy to help locate a local site as well. We strongly encourage you to observe at a program you are not a direct supervisor or staff member in, to ensure you are able to take a non-biased approach to observing.

**Will I receive credit with PDIS?**

In addition to the training hours clocked during the trainings themselves, these certifications will each earn two points in the PDIS. Users can earn points for each ERS certification they have.

These points are mapped under Professional Development. 15 points under Professional Development come from standard clock hour trainings. The remaining 15 points must be earned through certifications or trainings that must meet a higher criteria, such as ERS certification.

**What are my next steps?**

To schedule a certification, please email [ERSScheduling@claytonearlylearning.org](mailto:ERSScheduling@claytonearlylearning.org). Please include your name, which scales you wish to certify on, your timeframe for your certification, and where you are planning on certifying. Our schedules fill up fast, so please try and plan ahead to schedule as soon as you can.

**What’s new in the ECERS-3?**

* ECERS-3 is based solely on a 3 hour observation.
* The Parents and Staff subscale has been removed.
* This scale requires less attention to accessible materials and more attention to how the teachers use the materials to foster children’s learning.
* There is an item dedicated to “Becoming familiar with print.”
* There are now 3 items dedicated to “math.”
* Required times (i.e., outside time, gross motor equipment) are a minimum, because of possible timing errors, a 2-minute exception is allowed.

**What’s new in the ITERS-3?**

* ITERS 3 is based solely on a 3 hour observation.
* Tracks “Accessibility” instead of “Much of the Day.”
* The Parents and Staff subscale has been removed.
* This scale requires less attention to accessible materials and more attention to how the teachers use the materials to foster children’s learning.
* There are now 6 Items on the subscale “Listening and Books”
* The scale contains a new Item on “Math” with recognition that math learning begins at birth.
* There are now 6 Items on Interaction – highlighting the central role of relationships in young children’s learning and development.