



Colorado Shines Environment Ratings Scales - Third Edition Transition



The third editions of the Environment Rating Scales are coming to Colorado!

Please review this document for scale information and frequently asked questions and answers.

The third editions of the scales were a result of major revisions to the existing, previously revised versions of the scales. The main principles of the scales remain the same, but many additions and innovations were included in the newest scales based on current research.

The two major changes to the third editions of the scales (ECERS-3, ITERS-3, and FCCERS-3) are: 1) scores are based solely on the three-hour observation with no follow-up interview after the observation, and 2) scales focus less on the amount of materials and more on how teachers interact with children using materials.

The Office of Early Childhood and Clayton Early Learning have partnered to prepare our state for this transition. For this, we are training coaches and professionals across the state in the new scales, as part of Colorado's Preschool Development Grant Retooling Project.

QUESTION: WHEN WILL WE LAUNCH ECERS-3, ITERS-3, AND FCCERS-3?

ANSWER: In **2021** the *Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale - Third Edition (ECERS-3)*, the *Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale - Third Edition (ITERS-3)*, and the *Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale - Third Edition (FCCERS-3)* will launch as the observation measure for Colorado Shines Level 3-5 ratings. Due to COVID-19, the launch month has not yet been defined.

QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE THIRD AND REVISED (R) EDITIONS OF THE SCALES?

ANSWER:

Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale, Third Edition (ECERS-3)

- “Substantial portion of the Day” is not considered; however, 1 hour of free play/access to materials must be observed.
- There are now 5 items in the “Language and Literacy” subscale.
- There is an item dedicated to “Becoming Familiar with Print”.
- There are now 3 items related to math/numbers.

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

- “Much of the Day” is not considered; however, children should still have access to a variety of materials throughout the observation.
- This scale focuses on the experience and developmental needs of each age group represented in the classroom (young infants – older toddlers).
- There are now 6 items in the subscale “Listening and Books”.
- There is a new math item.
- There are now 6 items in the “Interactions” subscale.

Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale, Third Edition (FCCERS-3)

- “Much of the Day” is not considered; however, children should still have access to a variety of materials throughout the observation.
- This scale focuses on the experience and developmental needs of each age group represented in the program (young infants – school-agers).
- There are now 6 items in the subscale “Listening and Talking”.
- There are now 6 items in the “Interaction” subscale.

QUESTION: WHERE CAN I ACCESS RESOURCES?

- To learn more about the Environment Rating Scales, visit the Environment Ratings Scale Institute, [ERSI](#).
- Trainings for Intro to ERS, ECERS-3 and ITERS-3 can be found on the state's Professional Development Information System, [PDIS](#) (coming in April).
- To learn more about the Colorado Shines Rating, visit the [Colorado Shines website](#).
- To order scales, or *All About Books*, visit [Kaplan](#).
- For questions about the scales, or to schedule a training or certification, contact Clayton's [Inter-rater Reliability Team](#).
- For questions about the Colorado Shines Rating, contact Clayton's [Quality Assessment Services Department](#).

QUESTION: HOW WILL WE RECEIVE COMMUNICATION ABOUT THE TOOL CHANGE?

ANSWER: The state communicates with councils during a monthly TA webinar and via email. Information will be shared via the Colorado Shines Newsletter, Clayton Early Learning's website, and by direct communication from Clayton Early Learning staff. Additionally, Colorado Shines coaches participated in training on the third edition ERS scales this past year.

QUESTION: WHY ARE WE SWITCHING SCALES?

ANSWER: The newest editions are improved, recently validated, research-based, and more accurately predict child outcomes. Many states switched, or plan to switch, to the third editions as part of their Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). Colorado will be aligned with the authors and other states.

QUESTION: WHY HAVE WE WAITED SO LONG FOR A SWITCH TO THE THIRD EDITIONS?

ANSWER: As you can imagine, the improvement and transition of scales are large undertakings. We wanted to ensure ample time for statewide planning and training. With the funding provided through the Preschool Development Grant, the state has the opportunity to prepare needed data system changes, train coaches and assessment staff, and develop training for program staff.

QUESTION: WHY IS FCCERS-3 ON A DIFFERENT TIMELINE?

ANSWER: The FCCERS-3 tool was recently published (late June, 2019). To have time to prepare communication and training, a later transition date was needed. This will ensure our family child care providers have the same amount of time to prepare for the transition as was given to center and preschool providers.

QUESTION: I THOUGHT I WAS RATING USING THE THIRD EDITION, WHY I AM STILL RATING IN THE R EDITION?

ANSWER: The state launch date is July 2020 for ECERS-3 and ITERS-3. Programs will not have the option to choose which edition of the scales will be used for their rating. Many scheduling factors prohibit programs from "choosing" their rating month. If you rate before July 2020, you will be rated with the R editions. If you rate during or after July 2020, you will be rated with the third editions.

QUESTION: IF I DO NOT HAVE TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE THIRD EDITION, CAN I DELAY MY RATING?

ANSWER: Yes. However, if you are scheduled to re-rate, your rating will expire and this may cause a loss of funding, including a decrease in CCCAP reimbursement. If rating for the first time, you would lose your spot in the queue and have to re-submit your application and be notified when the new rating month is assigned.

QUESTION: WHAT IF WE ARE PREPARING FOR R EDITION(S), BUT RATING WITH THE THIRD EDITION(S)? OR VICE VERSA?

ANSWER: Preparing for one edition or the other should not greatly impact scores. For specific tips on how to prepare for this, please visit [Clayton's IRR Team webpage](#).

QUESTION: HOW ARE ASSESSORS TRAINED FOR THE THIRD EDITION?

ANSWER: Assessors go through rigorous and continuous training and reliability no matter what the scale. For more information about assessor reliability see [Clayton's Quality Assessment Services webpage](#).