*We evaluate and offer feedback for early childhood programs across Colorado to provide high-quality opportunities for children and families.*

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*View From the Road:* Grand Junction, Colorado. Photo by Melissa Swayne, Director, Quality Assessment Services

# Announcements & Resources

Happy Spring! We have had a busy end of Winter and start to Spring. Since returning to in-person, we have been go, go, go! We have some wonderful training opportunities coming up in June! We will be offering several virtual training sessions in addition to the Coaches Meeting. Starting June 1st, we are offering full-day virtual training on all the Environment Rating Scales (ECERS-3, ITERS-3, FCCERS-3). These trainings will provide you with a copy of the scale and in-depth knowledge of the scale including interpretation of specific indicators, the research and rationale for the requirements, and suggestions on how to meet the scale's criteria. These are also a prerequisite if you are planning on becoming ERS-3 certified. Additionally, just in time for Juneteenth, we are offering Cultural Awareness training for anyone who wants to broaden their perspective about cultural awareness and reflect upon and examine culture, bias, and privilege. The Coaches Meeting will also occur in June and we will have guest speakers presenting on relevant topics for the field, small group time for coaches to share insights and strategies with each other, and reveal the Environment Rating Scale, Third Edition notes for clarification that will be effective July 1st, 2022. To register for training and/or the Coaches Meeting, please visit our website **here**.

# What Does a Quality Data Associate Do?

**By Danielle Bauer, Lead Quality Data Associate**

While programs and providers may see Quality Assessment Associates out and about in the community, doing observations, or participating in trainings with our Quality Advancement Team, the work of Data Associates is often behind the scenes. As most people only get a rare glimpse of us on the occasional Zoom meeting, we want to give more insight into what the role of a Data Associate looks like!

Our day-to-day work generally consists of scoring Levels 3-5 evidence submitted by programs in their initial submission during their rating window or resubmission after their rating window. We are trained in-depth on what type of documentation earns credit for each indicator and one of our main roles is to use that knowledge to examine the evidence submitted. If questions arise, we consult each other, discuss as a team, and if needed, confirm with the QRIS Department at the Office of Early Childhood. Each program's evidence is reviewed by at least two, and sometimes three Data Associates, before being finalized.

We like data, but we also like people! We have the opportunity to interact with directors, home providers, and coaches on a regular basis and we enjoy getting to know others in the Early Childhood Education community! We regularly join Colorado Shines consultations to help explain what is required for each indicator, especially those little details that can easily be missed. We also co-lead the monthly Q&As, designed to give tips to programs and coaches and answer any documentation questions.

Lastly, we have the joy of seeing a glimpse of the behind-the-scenes work that goes into running an early childhood (ECE) program and being inspired by the continuous effort done by ECE professionals around the state. We look forward to continuing to work with all of you as you embark on your continuous quality improvement journey!

# Staff Feature

**Susana Herrera-Madrigal**
**Quality Data Associate**

**How long have you been on the team:** Since January 2020
**How many years of ECE experience do you have:** 6 years
**Favorite food:** Arepas
**Favorite college class you ever took:** Guitar Essentials
**Best part about the job?** Being part of the QAS team
**Favorite place in Colorado to travel to:** Hanging Lake
**Favorite children's book:** *Corduroy*
**Your life motto:**
Life is like a camera: focus on what's important, capture the good times, develop from the negatives, and if things don't work out take another shot
**Talent you would most like to have:**
The ability to juggle

# Environment Rating Scale (ERS-3) Certification Updates

**By Laura Johnston, Quality Advancement Specialist**

As we make adjustments to go with the flow of the pandemic, we are slowly moving back to in-person certifications! Here are some noteworthy tidbits about certifications:

- In-person certifications require a three-hour ERS-3 observation in a classroom with a Clayton team member, along with scoring afterward, and the completion of a classroom report.

- Our **virtual certifications** were a huge hit, so we will continue to offer them, along with in-person certifications.
    - As we explore new online systems, our virtual certification may look a little different in the near future.

- Quality Improvement Specialists (QIS) who go through our certification process each year will be able to alternate in-person certifications and virtual certifications every other year.
    - A QIS can choose to do in-person certifications each year; however, virtual certifications cannot be done back-to-back each year. This is to ensure live practice in the classroom occurs at least every other year!

- In order to certify for the first time, a QIS will first need to complete a full-day training on the ERS-3 scale through Clayton Early Learning, ERSI, or PDIS.
    - Those certifying for the first time will need to certify in person, with a few exceptions. This will be discussed and decided with your Clayton team member.

- If you are interested in certifying, you must complete the **Certification Request Form**.

- Whether you certify in person or virtually, your certificate is valid for one year.

## Featured Service

**Program Administration Scale (PAS)**

PAS is a valid and reliable tool that measures the quality of a program's administrative practices and supports best practices in a variety of program contexts, which helps to sustain high-quality learning environments at the classroom level. It is designed for early childhood programs and complements the widely used classroom Environment Rating Scales (ITERS-3, ECERS-3), as well as aligns with several requirements for Colorado Shines Ratings. To learn more about PAS, visit **External QI Services** webpage.

## Connect with QAS

**Visit our website**

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