Conducting your ERS Self Assessment

Objectives:
- Identify which of the four Environment Rating Scales (ERS) tools your program will utilize
- Recognize what the ERS measure
- Explore the self-assessment process and practice scoring

Why do a Self Assessment?
Continuous Quality Improvement

1) Self Assess
2) Develop PIP
3) Utilize PIP
WHEN should I use the ERS?

Maryland EXCELS Level 3

Centers: One assessment from each age group as defined by the Environment Rating Scales:
- Infant or Toddler
- Pre-school
- School Age
  - (in a separate room with staff)

Family Child Care Homes: Family Child Care ERS

School Age Only programs: School Age Care ERS

How to conduct your Self-Assessments

- Read over the entire scale carefully including the Notes for Clarification and Questions.
- Consult the scale frequently during the 3 hour observation.
- Observe and score current situations as seen during the first 3 hours.
- To score each item always start reading from 1 (inadequate) and progressing upward.
- Look at www.ersi.info

Live or Video Observations?

- Live observations
- Video observations
Scoring procedures:
Same for all four Scales

- **Family Care ERS** infants through 12 years
- **FCCERS-R**
- **Infant Toddler ERS** infants and more than half of the toddlers/wo under 30 months (2.5 years)
- **ITERS-R**
- **Early Childhood ERS** 2.5 years to 5 years (more than half over 30 months)
- **ECERS-R**
- **School Age Care ERS** 5 to 12 years
- **SACERS-u**

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Using the Scales:

- **Subscales**
- **Items**
- **Indicators**

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**SCORING**

1. Inadequate
   - 1.1
   - 1.2

2. Minimal
   - 3.1
   - 3.2

3. Good
   - 5.1
   - 5.2
   - 5.3

4. Excellent
   - 7.1
   - 7.2
   - 7.3

**Item Quality Score**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
When to Score “Not Applicable”

- If “NA permitted” is shown on the scale.
- There is an NA on the Score Sheet.
- The NA indicator is not counted when determining the rating for that item.
- An Item scored NA is not counted when calculating average subscale and overall assessment scores.

The ERS use hundreds of indicators of quality.

- A perfect score on the entire ERS is not a realistic goal. An average score of 5.00 is considered the benchmark for high quality.
- The ERS scores **DO NOT** impact your Maryland EXCELS Quality Rating!

Supplementary Materials for use with ERS (found on www.ersi.info)

- Expanded Score sheet (12 pages)
- Playground Guidelines (2 pages)
- USDA Meal Guidelines (1 page)
- Substantial portion of the day chart (1 page)
- Diapering and Handwashing Procedure (1 page)
- Table Washing Procedure (1 page)
- Caring for Our Children 3rd Edition
- All About ITERS/ECERS (from Kaplan, Barnes & Noble, or Amazon, etc.)
Next Steps…

Develop and implement your Program Improvement Plan (PIP)

- Self Assess
- Utilize PIP
- Develop Level 3 PIP

The Gift of Feedback

For more information …

- Quality Assurance Specialists
- Program Coordinators
- Child Care Resource and Referral Centers
- www.ersi.info
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