



ECERS-R Clarifications

Please read: The following are required to be completed as components of Delaware Stars assessments using the Environment Rating Scales (ERS). These requirements include information from Delacare Rules, additional notes that provide information identified by Delaware Stars to be included in assessments not already identified by the current Delacare regulations or the ECERS-R, and explanations from *All About the ECERS-R* book. In cases where Delacare Rules go beyond what the scales or the *All About the ECERS-R* recommend, Delaware Stars will defer to Delacare Rules. If Delaware Stars clarifications and the author's notes differ, Delaware Stars clarifications shall be followed. Other information and author's notes to the scales can be found online on the Environment Rating Scales Institute (ERSi) website at www.ersi.info.

Overall

The ECERS-R defines preschoolers as children 30 months to before kindergarten. If half or more of the children enrolled are preschoolers, the ECERS-R will be used.

The Personal Care Routines Sub-scale (Items 9-14) will not be observed or included in the results of the assessment or affect the overall score.

The Parents and Staff Sub-scale (Items 38-43) will not be included in assessments.

The phrase, "Substantial Portion of the Day" is used throughout the scale. To receive credit, the activities must occur throughout the day, not just very early in the morning at opening and late in the afternoon at closing. Credit will be given if the Substantial Portion of the Day calculation is within 5 minutes of the required amount of time.

For indicators that require rotation or addition of items, the expectation is that items would be rotated or added for variety at least on a monthly basis.

Any materials depicting violence/frightening images will not receive credit.

Any materials or activities (other than supervised cooking experiences) that use food, will not receive credit. Use of food for any purposes other than meals/snacks is unsanitary, confusing to children, and poses a conflict regarding use and waste of food.

The Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL)/Delacare requires supervision of children at all times (Regulations #28F and 30A).

#3 Furnishings for relaxation and comfort

Small stuffed animals do not count as furnishings in providing a substantial amount of softness.

#7 Space for gross motor play

Refer to the **Playground Guidelines** published by the Environment Rating Scale Institute for use with the ERS.

#8 Gross motor equipment

Refer to the **Playground Guidelines** published by the Environment Rating Scale Institute for use with the ERS.

#24 Dramatic play

7.2 The examples of diversity must be obvious to the children and in the room used most of the time by them. Examples must show a contrast. For instance, one poster showing children of many races is counted as one example; two baby dolls of different races also count as one example, because they represent one contrast.

#28 Promoting acceptance of diversity

1.1, 3.1, 5.1, 5.2 In assessing materials, a contrast must be observed for each example. One poster showing children of many races is counted as one example; two baby dolls of different races also count as one example, because they represent one contrast.

7.2 To receive credit, activities must be done at least four times a year.