



FCCERS-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 could include information from Delacare Rules, additional notes that provide information identified by Delaware Stars to be included in assessments not already identified by Delacare or the FCCERS-R. In cases where Delacare Rules go beyond what the scales require, 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 Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale – Revised will use the following defined age groups: Infants – birth through 11 months; Toddlers – 12 months to 30 months; Preschoolers – 30 months through 5 years (not in kindergarten); and School-agers – Kindergarten and older.

The Personal Care Routines Sub-scale (Items 7-12) will not be observed or included in the results of the assessment or affect the overall score.

The Parents and Provider Sub-scale (Items 35-38) will not be included in assessments.

The phrase “much 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.

Children who are contained after feedings due to reflux issues will not count against the “much of the day” requirements as long as a valid doctor’s note is provided and the child is contained for no more than 30 consecutive minutes while actively engaged.

If care is provided in separate groups (i.e. Large Family Child Care) requirements must be met for each group.

For indicators where the question is posed regarding 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.

#2 Furniture for routine care and play

3.3, 5.1 Delacare requires that high chairs have a wide base and a T-shaped strap and they are used (Rule #311).

5.1 Highchairs, group feeding tables, or any other type of chair that toddlers must be put into by an adult that cannot be made suitable to children's size will not receive credit.

#14 Helping children use language

5.2 Frequently requires 3 or more times to be observed.

#15 Using books

5.2 A wide selection is defined as 1 or more in each category. Appropriate books for infants/toddlers include books that are sturdy and have pages that do not tear easily.

#21 Math/number

7.3 Frequently requires 3 or more separate times to be observed.

#22 Nature/science

3.1 Two or more examples per age group enrolled must be observed. Examples can count for multiple age groups.

3.2 No credit can be given unless 3.1 is scored yes.

#24 Promoting acceptance of diversity

3.1, 5.1 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.

7.2 Activities must occur 4 times a year.

#26 Active physical play

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

#29 Discipline

7.2 If no conflicts or problems are observed, credit may be given if the provider helps children use communication with one another in other interactions.

7.3 In most cases "other professionals" means someone from outside the program that specializes in the area of concern. The family child care provider can benefit from an outsider's perspective of a child who is experiencing difficulties.