



Delaware Stars for *Early Success*
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ITERS-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 Delaware Rules, additional notes that provide information identified by Delaware Stars to be included in assessments not already identified by the current Delaware regulations or the ITERS-R, and explanations from the *All About the ITERS-R* book. In cases where Delaware Rules go beyond what the scales or the *All About the ITERS-R* book recommend, Delaware Stars will defer to Delaware 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 ITERS-R defines infants as children aged birth through 11 months; toddlers are defined as children between the ages of 12 months and 30 months. If more than half of the children enrolled are under 30 months, the ITERS-R will be used.

The Personal Care Routines Sub-scale (Items 6-11) will not be observed or included in the results of the assessment or affect the overall score.

The Parents and Staff Sub-scale (Items 33-39) 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.

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)/Delaware requires supervision of children at all times (Regulations #28F and 30A).

#2 Furniture for routine care and play

3.4 Delacare requires that high chairs have a wide base and a T-shaped strap and they are used (Regulation #68B).

In addition, group feeding tables with bucket seats will not receive credit.

5.5 Delacare states that at least 50% of infant staff have comfortable seating (Regulation #68C).

#12 Helping children understand language

7.2 At least two instances of verbal play should be observed during observation.

#14 Using books

5.2 A wide selection is defined as 1 or more in each category.

#16 Active physical play

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

3.1 The ERSi additional notes regarding changing the time limit to 15 minutes will not be followed. The time limit to be restrained will remain as 20 minutes.

#24 Promoting acceptance of diversity

1.1, 3.1, 5.1, 5.2 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.

#25 Supervision of play and learning

1.1, 3.1 Supervision and ratios must be maintained at all times.

#28 Discipline

In most cases “other professionals” means someone from outside the program that specializes in the area of concern. The early childhood professionals (teachers, director, etc.) who work in the classrooms and center can benefit from an outsider’s perspective of a child who is experiencing difficulties. In a few cases, however, a program staff member can count as the “other professional” if the person has a specialization in the area of concern and can give an unbiased perspective.