



Quality in Child Care and How to Measure It: The Environment Rating Scales




Quality in Child Care

- Your Name
- Agency
- Date



Welcome!

- Please choose a  and complete the “Basic Components of Quality of Life for Early Childhood Education Programs” worksheet.
- Work individually or in pairs.



Training Objectives

- Identify the three basic components of quality in child care
- Describe preferred methods for using the Environment Rating Scales
- List five ways that a CCHC can assess a child care facility and identify strategies for improving quality



Training Objectives

Last, but not least:

- Conduct a quality assessment observation using the ITERS-R



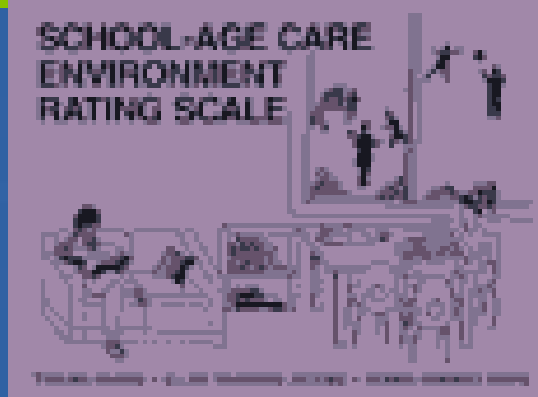
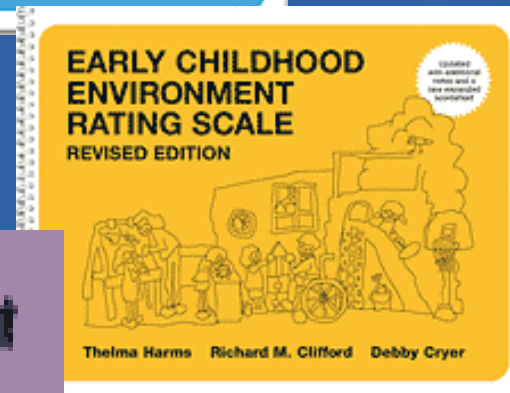
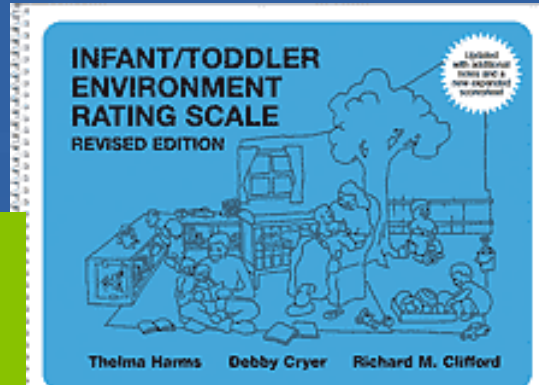
The Role of the CCHC

Improve the overall quality of child care programs by:

1. Increasing competence in using a guided observation tool,
2. Developing good observational skills through practice in child care setting, and
3. Applying collaborative consultation skills in making a plan of action to improve quality.

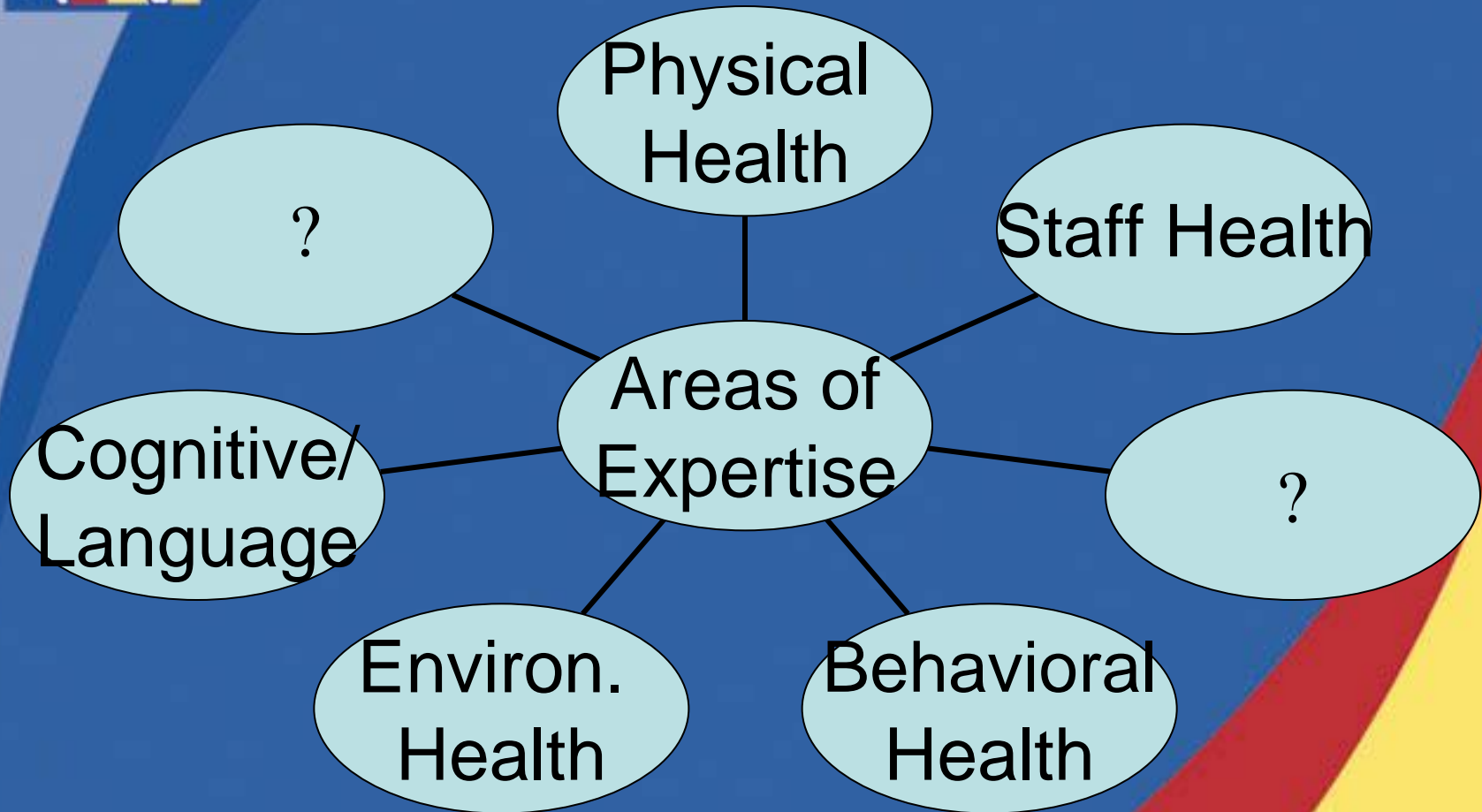


Harms, Clifford and Cryer Environment Rating Scales





The CCHC's Individual Areas of Expertise





Classroom Observations

The Child Care Health Consultant has a broad focus.

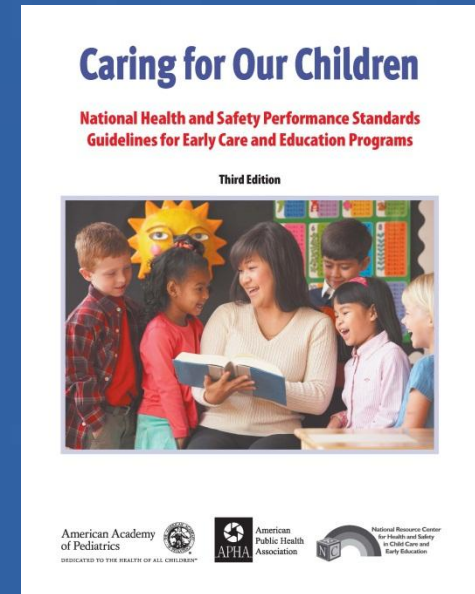
Classroom observations help the CCHC become acquainted with the child care facility.





Using Quality Assessment Tools

Environment
Rating Scale
Indicators





Basic Components of Quality

How can programs provide quality child care?

By meeting the needs of children in three areas:

1. Physical
2. Social/Emotional
3. Cognitive

Approaches to Measuring Quality



Two Approaches

Structural

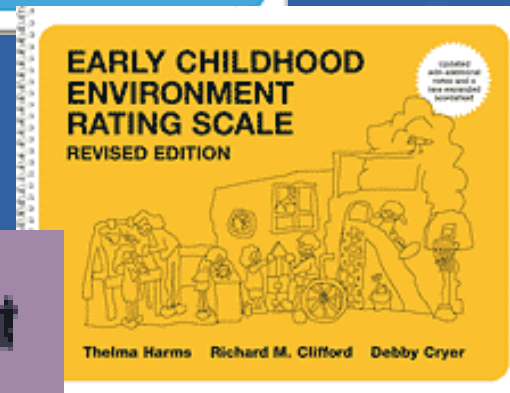
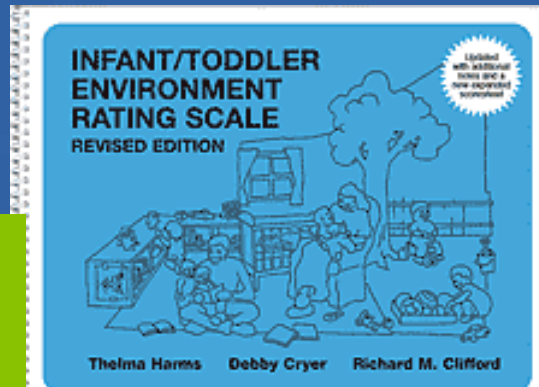
- Staff-child ratio
- Group size
- Staff education

Processes

- Staff-child
- Child-child
- Staff-parent



Harms, Clifford and Cryer Environment Rating Scales





Scale Characteristics: Items

Each scale has items to evaluate:

- Physical environment
- Basic care
- Curriculum
- Caregiver/child interaction
- Schedule/program structure
- Provisions for parent/staff



Scale Characteristics: Suitability

The scales are suitable for:

- Use in evaluating inclusive and culturally diverse child care programs.
- Research and program improvement



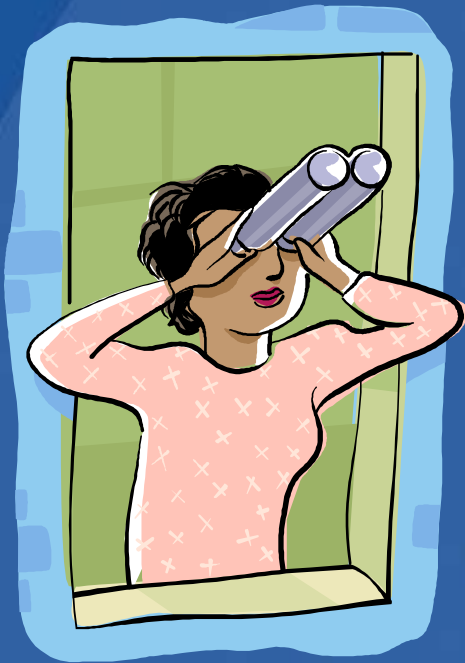
Scale Characteristics: Training Program

Each scale has a complete training program that includes:

- Visits to area classrooms,
- Follow-up analysis with experienced group leaders, and
- Self-study packets.



What Makes a Good Observer?

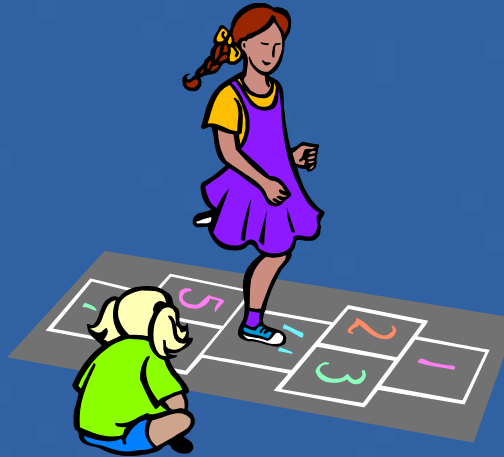


Environment Rating Scales Observation Guidelines



Research Use of the Scales

Quality in child care is a strong predictor of school success and social success.





Program Improvement

Child care programs can use the scales for:

- Self-assessment,
- Accreditation preparation, and
- Voluntary improvement.



Action Items for the CCHC

The CCHC should:

- Use the appropriate Environment Rating Scale to identify strengths and needs.
- Train child care staff to use guided observation instruments.
- Collaborate with staff to improve quality.



Action Items for the CCHC

The CCHC should:

- Train child care staff in areas of competence.
- Identify additional training resources.
- Conduct follow-up.



Action Items for the CCHC

The CCHC should **NOT**:

- Use the Environment Rating Scales for any purpose other than consultation.
- Share rating scale scores with anyone external to the child care facility.



Learning Assessment

- List two ways that a CCHC can use the Environment Rating Scales in consultation with child care programs.
- Describe two ways that the Environment Rating Scales should NOT be used.



Activity: Evaluation

Please take a few minutes to complete the training evaluation.