Additional Notes for Clarification for the ITERS-R

In 2006, the new updated edition of the ITERS-R was published. Featuring a new spiral binding, the updated ITERS-R offers more practical assistance in the form of additional notes for clarification and an Expanded Score Sheet, which incorporates notes and tables to assist in scoring. However, the items and indicators remain the same as in the original ITERS-R.

These notes were developed by Thelma Harms and Debby Cryer to improve the interrater agreement among North Carolina Rated License Assessors. These notes do not change any of the requirements in the printed scales, they merely add additional information to help in accurate scoring.

Be sure to replace older notes with newer notes.

**Most recent changes are in blue:**

08-09: Much of the Day
06-10: Item 14, 17, 18, 24
09-10: Much of the Day
11-10: Item 19
12-10: Item 3, 15, 23
01-11: Item 5
03-11: Items 2 and 17

Explanation of Terms Used Throughout the Scale:

**Much of the day:** In most items, “much of the day” is associated with the children’s access to materials typically used indoors (e.g., books, art materials, fine motor or dramatic play toys). It means most of the time that any child maybe awake and able to play. If children are prevented from using materials for long periods by overly long routines when the children have to wait with nothing to do, being kept in groups that they are not engaged in, or being kept in areas where access is not possible, then credit cannot be given for “much of the day.” Appropriate group activities in which children are engaged and interested for short periods that match their abilities are permissible as long as they do not significantly affect access to materials throughout the rest of the day. If children (or any child) who are ready to play are prevented from reaching and using materials for a total of 20 minutes during a 3-hour observation, then “much of the day” cannot be given credit. The 20 minutes can be calculated as one 20-minute time period, or may be calculated as a combination of smaller time periods that equal 20 minutes. “Much of the day” should be considered separately for each item where the requirement appears. In some cases credit might be given on one item for much of the day, while not given for another item.

If children are kept outdoors for extremely long periods (1/3 of the day or more), thus limiting access to materials typically used indoors, then to give credit for “much of the day”, such materials must be provided outdoors as well. Special attention should be paid to individual children who may not have the same access to materials as do the other children. For example, non-mobile children or children who are confined in a playpen may not have the same access to play materials as the other children in a group. For non-mobile infants, all required toys or materials do not have to be accessible at the same time during the whole observation because of problems with clutter. However, there must be clear indications that the required variety and numbers of materials are accessible at various times during the day. A cranky baby who needs close physical contact to be soothed may not be “ready to play” and thus not require access to materials during the “cranky” times.

When children are taken for stroller rides, do not count the time spent riding as part of the 20 minutes when children do not have access to materials for “much of the day” as long as children are generally engaged (one child may be less engaged than others for some part of the ride, but most children should show interest, and no child should show distress), and the actual stroller ride is no longer than 20 minutes. Some children may fall asleep in the stroller, but in this case they are not awake and ready to play, so falling asleep should not count in the timing for much of the day. Sometimes there are delays in putting children into strollers, and after the walk, removing them. If children have to wait for long periods (over 3 minutes with no access to play materials) while waiting in the strollers, then the time waiting should be counted towards the 20 minute limit that will disallow crediting “much of the day.”

If the stroller ride is more than 20 minutes, do not give credit for “much of the day” in the Active Physical Play item, indicator 3.1, since children are not able to freely move around when confined in a stroller.

If most of the children are not engaged during most of the stroller ride, consider when calculating “much of the day” in item 26, Peer Interaction.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Furniture for routine care and play</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>When determining whether furniture for routine care is sufficient, consider the sizes of cubbies in relation to what is stored in them to see if they can adequately accommodate all of each child’s possessions. Each child enrolled in the group must have an individual cubby that is not shared with anyone else, with space for all possessions to be stored there. This is to reduce the spread of lice and scabies. When children’s personal belonging, such as coats, extra clothing, blankets (if stored in cubbies,) are not reasonably well-separated, or if cubbies are so full that things fall onto the floor, score 3.1 “No” because the cubbies are not adequate in size based on what must be stored in them. If there is only minor touching of possessions (e.g., protruding sleeves of winter coats touching those of other children, or a small problem with other materials, but this could be solved easily by pushing things into the cubby properly, consider the cubbies adequate. Any touching of children’s personal possessions should also be considered in the Health item.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Provision for relaxation and comfort</td>
<td>3.2, 5.3</td>
<td>When counting the numbers of soft toys, individual pieces belonging to a soft toy that has various pieces, such as a soft stacking ring toy, can only count as one example, even though the individual parts might be what a child uses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Display for children</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Since the intent of this indicator is to expose children to varying, identifiable images, and for these images to be present throughout the room for adults to point out and talk about to encourage children’s language development, children’s artwork (credited in 3.1 and 7.4) is not considered here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Using books</td>
<td>1.1, 3.1, 5.1</td>
<td>To give credit for much of the day, the numbers of books required in these indicators must be met.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Fine motor</td>
<td>3.1, 5.1</td>
<td>When deciding how many fine motor toys to count as accessible to the children, consider the developmental level of all the children in the classroom, and whether each toy presented is complete enough to be used to add to the children’s’ fine motor development. The developmental expectations for how children will be able to use specific toys will also have an effect on scoring. For example, for the youngest infants who are limited to grasping or batting at things, individual objects (rattles, small soft animals, etc.) can each count as one example. However, as an exception to this rule, individual pieces belonging to a set of objects that make up one toy can only count as one example, even though the individual parts might be what a child uses. Thus, all the individual rings of a stacking ring toy or links from a set of linking toys will count as only one example, even if the various rings are included in a bin of grasping toys for infants. When determining the number of pieces required for a functional set (stacking rings, links, interlocking blocks, pop beads, peg boards with pegs), developmental expectations for productive use must also be considered. Obviously, any puzzle must have all its pieces to be a functional set because there is one right way to complete the puzzle and all pieces are needed. However, even for the more open-ended materials such as those listed above, developmental expectations must be considered in determining what a functional set must include. For example, for a 9-12 month old to use pop beads, only three or four beads would be required as the minimum number of beads in a set. However, to count as a set for older children more pop beads would be required because older children are more likely to connect larger numbers of beads. Because the intent of this indicator is to give children many fine motor toys and within the many toys, a variety of experiences, a set of materials (such as interlocking blocks or links) that has been divided into smaller individual sets with fewer pieces, each in its own container, can count as no more than two sets, even though the one large set might have been divided into more than two sets. Each smaller set must function in keeping with the purpose of the toy and be suited to the developmental abilities of the children in the group.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
17. Art

Art materials such as crayons, chalk or play dough may have the warning “not recommended for use by children under 3 years of age.” Unless such materials are labeled “Toxic” they may be used with younger children but only under the most stringent supervision (the teacher is within an arm’s reach of the child and watches closely). The materials should not be freely accessible to the children. Materials that are less likely to cause safety problems, such as thicker crayons rather than thin ones should be used and the caps to markers should not be accessible. Art materials that smell like food should not be used. Art materials should be offered to children 12 months and older, but if a child only mouths the material, and shows no interest in using it for art, he should be redirected to a more appropriate activity.

1.1
3.1
5.1

Crayons or other drawing materials (e.g., pencils, markers, chalk) are considered art materials in this item if used with plain paper or another plain surface, such as a chalk board. They are not counted as art materials when used with coloring book pages or other pre-determined projects. When used with coloring books, etc., they are considered in item 15. Fine motor but not to meet the requirements for the Art item.

3.3

If children are required to participate, but they quickly become engaged in the activity, obviously enjoying it, then score “Yes.” Score “No” only if the children are not engaged or enjoying the activity and there is no alternative of leaving and doing something else.

19. Blocks

There has been some inconsistency about the dimensions of blocks to be considered for this item, with some requiring that the blocks are “at least” 2 inches for the majority of sides, and others requiring “more than” 2 inches. To ensure reliability across assessors, blocks are now interpreted as having to be at least 2 inches for the majority of sides, rather than more than 2 inches.

18. Music and movement

3.3

If children are required to participate, but they quickly become engaged in the activity, obviously enjoying it, then score “Yes.” Score “No” only if the children are not engaged or enjoying the activity and there is no alternative of leaving and doing something else.

23. Use of TV, video and/or computer

1.3
3.3

Since the American Academy of Pediatrics states that children under the age of two should not be allowed to view television, due to persuasive research indicating negative effects for these youngest of children, change the age listed in these indicators from 12 to 24 months.

24. Promoting acceptance of diversity

5.1

Photographs of the children in the group and their families are given credit in Item 5. Display for children, indicator 7.1 and not as “pictures showing diversity” in this item, even if the children and their families in the class photos show diversity of race, culture, abilities or gender roles. In order to be given credit for this indicator, some picture examples, that have been selected intentionally by staff to clearly show diversity, are displayed so they are easy for children to see in the space used by the children most of the time.