

Modified Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale**

[**adapted from Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale by Harms, Cryer and Clifford]

Criteria	Notes May include observations or thoughts about how to improve.	Rating [4 is highest rating]			
		4	3	2	1
Plenty of indoor space for adults and children. Children with disabilities are easily accommodated.					
Space includes natural light and ventilation which can be controlled.					
Floors, walls and all built-in furniture is made of easy to wash materials.					
All furniture is sturdy and in good repair.					
Some child-sized furniture available for toddlers.					
Routine care furniture is accessible and convenient (high chairs, diaper table, cubbies, etc.)					
Soft toys and comfortable spaces are available for children throughout the day. Soft toys are clean and in good repair.					
Traffic patterns do not interfere with children's activities.					
Both active and quiet areas are available to children.					
Toys are stored for easy access by children.					
Materials are all clean and in good repair. Center has a well-established routine for cleaning of soiled materials.					

Criteria	Notes	4	3	2	1
Materials and books are available for rotation.					
Photographs of the children and their families are displayed throughout the room at eye level.					
Children's work is displayed throughout the room. Much of the work is at the children's eye level.					
Display items are protected from being torn.					
Outdoor area is checked daily for safety.					
Outdoor area has varying surfaces as well as shade.					
Outdoor equipment provides practice for a variety of gross motor skills.					
Each child and parent is greeted and bid farewell individually each day.					
Atmosphere is friendly and relaxed encouraging parents to spend extra time in the classroom.					
Parents are greeted and information is shared on a daily basis. This may be a daily, written form.					
Staff sit with children during meals and use feeding time to encourage learning.					
Staff and parents work together to establish good food habits.					
Allergies and dietary restrictions are strictly observed.					

Criteria	Notes	4	3	2	1
Children are helped to relax at naptime. Nap space is conducive to rest and relaxation.					
Nap is personalized and activities are provided for those children not sleeping.					
Toileting involves pleasant staff-child interaction. Self-help skills are promoted but only as children indicate readiness.					
Toileting and hand-washing are convenient for children. Child-sized toilets and sinks are provided for those who are ready.					
Staff model healthy practices throughout the day.					
Children are taught healthy practices and self-help skills.					
Staff and children wash hands consistently throughout the day.					
Play areas are arranged to avoid any safety hazards.					
Staff help children to follow safety rules.					
Adults talk to children throughout the day using simple, descriptive language.					
Adults take part in verbal play with children.					
Adults respond in a timely manner to children's attempts at communication and are skillful in interpreting attempts to communicate.					

Criteria	Notes	4	3	2	1
Adults scaffold children's communicative attempts and ask simple questions.					
Adults listen carefully to children and maintain a good balance between listening and talking.					
A book area is set up for toddlers to use.					
Adults use books with children periodically throughout the day.					
Fine motor materials at different levels of difficulty are accessible to children throughout the day.					
Art materials are introduced to children who are ready and are accessible based on children's abilities.					
Various types of music are used with the children on a regular basis.					
Adults encourage children to sing, dance, clap and participate in music and movement activities.					
At least 3 sets of blocks of different types are available for much of the day.					
Adults participate in simple block play with the children.					
Dramatic play props are provided to present diversity.					
Adults pretend with children.					

Criteria	Notes	4	3	2	1
Sand or water play is provided daily.					
Children are provided with some daily experience with plants or animals.					
Outdoor experiences with nature are provided at least 2 X per week.					
Cultural awareness is shown in a variety of activities.					
Adults supervise carefully and act to avoid problems before they occur.					
Staff are comforting and supportive when problems occur.					
Supervision is individualized and only positive guidance is used.					
Adults model positive social interaction and foster positive peer interaction.					
Adults explain children's actions, intentions, and feelings to other children.					
Staff are sensitive to children's feelings and reactions and responsive to each child's mood and needs.					
Adults help children understand the effects of their own actions on others.					
Program is set up to avoid conflict and promote appropriate interaction.					
Adults help children learn to communicate rather than use aggression to solve problems.					

Criteria	Notes	4	3	2	1
When a child's behavior becomes a problem, parents and other professionals are consulted.					
Adults enjoy being with the children.					
The same general schedule is followed each day.					
Transitions are smooth and there are no long periods of waiting for the children.					
Both active and quiet play is available to meet the individual needs of the children.					
Ample and varied toys are provided for free play.					
Supervision is used as an educational interaction with children.					
When doing group activities the size of the group is appropriate for the age and ability of the children.					
Children with disabilities are included and participate in a majority of the daily activities in the classroom.					
Teachers and parents communicate frequently and both contribute to setting goals for children.					
Parents are always welcome in the center and the classroom.					
Adults work together as a team throughout the center.					
Professional development is encouraged and supported by administration.					

Center Name: _____ Date: _____ Observer: _____