

SACERS-U: Introduction

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Interactions between caregivers and children must have a sufficient level of social, language, and cognitive stimulation to have a positive impact on children's academic and social outcomes (Fuller, et al, 2010; Miervino, 2014). Children need language nutrition – language exposure that is *rich in both quantity and quality* as providers supervise and interact with children (Weldon 2014). A quality school-age program must provide for the three basic needs all children have:

- Protection of their health and safety
- Positive social relationships
- Opportunities for stimulation and learning

WHERE DO I START?

As you plan next steps in quality improvement, note that lower level indicators reflect practices that are not adequate for the supervision and teaching of young children. The items at level 7 represent minimum requirements for high-quality practice; therefore, providers should aim for the highest level of quality:

- Items at level 1 represent inadequate quality care
- Items at level 3 represent minimal quality care - a score of 3 and under
- Items at level 5 represent good quality care - a score of 3 to less than 5
- Items at level 7 represent excellent care - a score of five and above

WHERE DO I FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

The Environment Rating Scales Institute website provides extensive information for quality specialists and providers: <http://www.ersi.info/iters.html>

- See explanation of terms and updates from ERSI: <https://www.ersi.info/sacers-u.html>
- See supplementary materials: https://www.ersi.info/sacers-u_notes.html

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