

What to Expect from Your ERS Observer During a Formal Rating

The ERS Observer will arrive to conduct a formal rating sometime during the time frame set aside by them and the provider. Upon arriving the ERS Observer will introduce themselves and ask to speak the program director or provider. The ERS Observer will determine which room to observe (in the case of a group center) and will have some basic questions to ask the Lead Teacher before starting their observation.

To reduce the effect on the classroom environment, the ERS Observer...

- **Will not** talk to or interact with program staff or children during the observation
- **Will** acknowledge children that approach them with a simple response (“I am watching you play,” “I am working,” etc.)
- **Will** try to keep a neutral facial expression so children/staff are not influenced (positively or negatively) by them
- **Will** stay with the staff and children as they move to different places throughout their daily routine (a.k.a. outdoors, to the gross motor room, to the bathroom, etc.)
- **Will** look through the materials accessible to the children in the classroom
- **Will** listen to language, take note of staff-child interactions, and observe sanitary procedures (diapering, hand washing, sanitizing, etc.), to name a few

The ERS Observer wants to see what happens on a typical day in your program, and how the staff interact with the children under varying circumstances. During the observation, the observer will closely follow the lead teacher to see and hear what is going on. Keep in mind that the ERS Observer has a lot to observe in the hours they are given and will be very focused on recording information so that they do not miss anything and score as much content as possible. There will be time after the observation for an interview with the staff member(s) taking part in the formal rating where staff may share additional information with the ERS Observer and the ERS Observer may ask questions to complete the ERS scoring. For a full list of items that will be scored throughout the observation, see the appropriate Environment Rating Scale.