

## The 7 Subscales of the Environment Rating Scales

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Each scale of the Environmental Rating Scales is divided into 7 smaller sections called subscales. These are the specific areas that the scales assess. Sometimes the areas are named differently in different scales, but the general areas are the same in all four scales. These 7 subscales cover all areas of the environment that can be observed or reported in a classroom or family group home:

- **Space and Furnishings:** How the space is arranged and how the environment is setup for children
- **Personal Care Routines (Health and Safety):** This area includes health and safety practices such as hand washing and sanitizing as well as nap, toileting, meals and greeting/departing.
- **Listening and Talking (Language and Reasoning):** Helping children understand and use language, encourage communication, and utilize books in your program.
- **Activities:** The materials and activities available for children to use to explore and engage all their senses, while respecting their individual differences.
- **Interaction:** This area looks at supervision, discipline, and the relationships among children and between children and adults.
- **Program Structure:** This area looks at the daily schedule the children follow including group time and free play. Specific needs for children with disabilities will also be looked at.
- **Parents and Staff/Provider (Staff Development):** not included in the overall score because it cannot be observed. These items are assumed to have an indirect effect (rather than direct) on children's development. However, the items in this subscale are important because they support the quality children experience in all other areas of the scale. Much of the information used to score the items is based on the provider interview that is conducted after the assessment.