

School Year 2019-20 Early Learn Program Assessment Information

This document addresses common questions specific to ECERS-R and CLASS assessment requirements in Early Learn programs. For mandates and expectations not related to ECERS-R and CLASS, please reference [The Policy Handbook](#). For tool specific information that is applicable to all program types, please see the ECERS-R and CLASS FAQs available at bit.ly/nycprogramassessment.

Three Year Old Classrooms

All 3s classrooms at Early Learn programs, including those outside of 3-K districts, will be included in standard assessment protocols. This includes any 3s classrooms that are funded through the DOE. This means that 3s classrooms within a program will be assessed with all other classrooms on the CLASS tool, and will be included in the random selection for ECERS-R. Please see [this](#) 3s classroom specific document for additional information relevant to scoring both tools in 3s classrooms.

Head Start Self-Assessment Process and Resources

As required by the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS), all Head Start programs must conduct a self-assessment at least once every year. To meet these requirements, NYCDOE Head Start delegate agencies will need to submit self-assessment data and program goals to DECE by **May 15, 2020**. Specific information on requirements and resources available in The Early Childhood Bulletin sent via email on 12/18/20.

More information about the official FY20 data submission platform and technology support for its use will be available in early 2020.

This process is **ONLY** required for DOE-contracted delegate agencies. It is optional for EarlyLearn Child Care programs.

Please reach out to headstart@schools.nyc.gov with any additional questions.

Tool Trainings for Head Start Programs

Leaders from Head Start sites are invited to attend CLASS Pre-K Observer Reliability training and/or Self-Assessment Using the ECERS-R training. Because these trainings are intended to assist with the self-assessment process, these trainings are intended specifically for Head Start program staff and not open to EarlyLearn Child Care programs. We plan to host both sessions on a monthly basis, and will publish the future dates for trainings in the Bulletin as they are confirmed.

After attending the 2 day CLASS reliability training, participants will have the opportunity to take a test and become a reliable observer for the CLASS tool. As a reliable observer, you can collect data for self-assessment and for continuous quality improvement purpose. Participants are required to pay for this training.

Attending the Self-Assessment using the ECERS-R tool training will help leaders conduct objective data reporting but will not make them reliable in the ECERS-R tool. This training is provided to participants free of charge.

ECERS-R hours requirements for Early Learn programs

It is required that children have a reasonable opportunity to use materials. "Accessibility" and "Substantial Portion of the Day" (SPD) are the terms used to identify the amount of time in which children have access to materials. Accessibility means that children can reach and freely use materials, furnishings and equipment for one-eighth of the program length. After eight hours, accessibility is capped at one hour. Substantial Portion of the Day means that children can reach and freely use materials, furnishings, and equipment for at least one-third of the program length. The table below shows how accessibility and SPD are calculated at various program lengths.

Program Hours (PH)	Accessibility (PH divided by 8)	SPD (PH divided by 3)
2 hours 30 minutes	19 minutes	50 minutes
4 hours	30 minutes	1 hour 20 minutes (80 minutes)
4 hours 30 minutes	34 minutes	1 hour 30 minutes (90 minutes)
5 hours	37 minutes	1 hour 40 minutes (100 minutes)
5 hours 30 minutes	41 minutes	1 hour 50 minutes (110 minutes)
6 hours	45 minutes	2 hours (120 minutes)
6 hours 20 minutes	47 minutes	2 hours 7 minutes (127 minutes)
6 hours 30 minutes	49 minutes	2 hours and 10 minutes (130 minutes)
7 hours	52 minutes	2 hours 20 minutes (140 minutes)
7 hours 30 minutes	56 minutes	2 hours 30 minutes (150 minutes)
8 hours	60 minutes	2 hours 40 minutes (160 minutes)
8 hours 30 minutes	60 minutes	2 hours 50 minutes (170 minutes)
9 hours	60 minutes	3 hours (180 minutes)
9 hours 30 minutes	60 minutes	3 hours 10 minutes (190 minutes)
10 hours	60 minutes	3 hours 20 minutes (200 minutes)
10 hours 30 minutes	60 minutes	3 hours 30 minutes (210 minutes)
11 hours	60 minutes	3 hours 40 minutes (220 minutes)

The ECERS-R includes 15 items that require specific information about the amount of time materials/activities are available to children in order to determine if Accessibility and/or SPD are met. These items are:

Item	Accessibility Requirement	SPD Requirement
3. Furnishings for relaxation	Yes	Yes
5. Space for Privacy	N/A	Yes
7. Gross Motor Space	Yes	N/A
8. Gross Motor Equipment	Yes	N/A
15. Books and pictures	Yes	Yes
19. Fine Motor	Yes	Yes
20. Art	Yes	Yes
21. Music and Movement	Yes	N/A
22. Blocks	Yes	Yes
23. Sand/Water	Yes	N/A
24. Dramatic Play	Yes	Yes
25. Nature Science	Yes	Yes
26. Math/Number	Yes	Yes
35. Free Play	Yes	Yes

When calculating accessibility and substantial portion of the day for the ECERS, we will take into account your full contract hours. This means that the time requirement changes based upon the number of hours you serve children. Substantial portion of the day is 1/3 of a program's operating hours and accessibility is 1/8 of a program's operating hours.

Private pay hours are not considered in the scoring of ECERS-R items. This means that all publicly funded hours will be considered ECERS-R scoring, but privately funded hours will not be. Please make your evaluator aware of your program's schedule before the observation begins.

Meals and Snack Requirements

Meals and snacks served are required to adhere to the requirements outlined by the [Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) (CACFP) and NYC Food Standards. Children should be given nutritious foods at least every two to three hours unless they are sleeping. Early Learn programs that operate for more than 6 hours are required to serve two meals and one snack **or** two snacks and one meal. Children have different appetites and food interests, so flexibility in the schedule is also important. Children do not need to be fed every time they say they are hungry but there should be flexibility in the meal/snack

schedule if one or more children are showing obvious signs of hunger or thirst. They should always have access to water or be given water upon request. In addition, meals/snacks served should meet the USDA nutritional components requirements. For more information about meal requirements, please see the All About the ECERS-R book (pp. 89-90) and the [NYC DECE Additional Notes](#) and the [The Policy Handbook](#).