



ECERS Network
Faye Linskey June 2011

Assessing the Quality of Home-based Care



Ofsted definition

- *'Individuals looking after children on domestic premises, which is not the home of any of the children being cared for.'*
- You must register with Ofsted as a childminder if you look after children aged under eight for more than two hours in any one day on domestic premises for reward.



Childminders

- Childminders:
 - work in their own homes caring for other people's children
 - provide learning opportunities for children in their care
 - often look after children from birth and become a well-respected and an important part of families' lives
 - manage a business-like relationship with the parents as well as often being a close friend of the family.



Inspections

- **Inspections**
- Childminders in England are registered and inspected by Ofsted.
- Most childminders are inspected every two to three years. The inspection is to ensure that providers are working to the minimum standards to which all providers must work.
- Childminders need to complete a self-evaluation form which helps the inspector carry out the inspection.
- Registered childminders in England must deliver and are inspected against the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).
- The inspectors look at the child's experience of the childminding setting and consider parents' views as part of the inspection.



Assessment tools

- The Child Care Home Inventories (CC-HOME)
- Family Child Care Environment Scale (FCCERS-R)
- Assessment profile for Family Child Care Homes (APFCCH)
- LA Quality assurance schemes



Child Care Home Inventories

Bradley RH; Caldwell BM & Corwyn RF

“Designed to measure the quality and quantity of stimulation and support available to a child in non-parental child care taking place in home-like settings other than the child’s own home”

(Bradley et al. 2003, p297)

7



Child Care-Home inventories

Encompasses 2 measures:

- Infant Toddler Child Care Home used when children are less than 3 years old
- Early Childhood Care Home used when children are 3 to 6 year old
- IT- CC- HOME binary choice
- EC- CC-HOME binary choice

8



IT-CC-HOME

- 43 items
- 6 subscales:
 - Caregiver responsiveness 11
 - Acceptance 7
 - Organisation 6
 - Learning materials 9
 - Caregiver involvement 6
 - Variety of stimulation 4

9



EC-CC-HOME

- 58 items
- 8 subscales
 - Learning materials 11
 - Language stimulation 7
 - Physical environment 7
 - Caregiver responsiveness 8
 - Academic stimulation 5
 - Modelling of social maturity 7
 - Variety in experience 9
 - Acceptance of child 4

10



Review

- Coverage of interactions not as intensive as other measures.
- Doesn’t capture aspects of the social or the physical environment in as much detail as other measures
- Does not attempt to assess formal curricula
- Broad rather than intensive coverage of the various aspects of the caregiving environment

11



Family Child Care Environment Scale

Harms T, Cryer D & Clifford R (2007)

“The FCCERS-R is a thorough revision of the Family Day Care scale and contains items to assess provisions in the environment for a wide age range to ensure protection of children’s health and safety, appropriate stimulation through language and activities and warm, supportive interaction”

(Harms Cryer and Clifford 2007, p1)

12



FCCERS-R

- Assesses children from birth to 12 years of age
- Items rated using a 7 point scale
- Each item made up of a series of quality statements (indicators) ranging from 'inadequate' through to 'excellent' quality
- Provides a comprehensive profile of what was observed on the day (i.e. what is already in place) and what was not (i.e. signposts to improvement)

13



FCCERS-R

- 38 items
- 7 subscales:
 - Space and furnishings 6
 - Personal care routines 6
 - Listening and talking 3
 - Activities 11
 - Interaction 4
 - Program structure 4
 - Parents and provider 4

14



Assessment Profile for Family Child Care Homes

- APFCCH was developed using items from the Assessment Profile for Early Childhood Programs
- Evaluates mixed age groups
- Assesses the business and professional practices of the provider.

15



APFCCH

- Assesses children from birth to 10 years of age
- Five subscales:
 - Safety 51
 - Health and Nutrition 60
 - Learning Environment 41
 - Interacting 51
 - Outdoor environment 25
 - Professionalism 50

16



Method

- Observation
- Review of records
- Interviews
- 4 to 6 hours timescale

17



Discussion

- Each table to start with a different discussion point
- Go on to others if finished
- One person to scribe
- Share ideas from the whole group.

18