

INFANT-TODDLER ERS ASSESSMENT (ITERS-R) Scoring Change Effective March 1, 2011:

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control have recommended that children under 2 years of age should refrain from TV and video viewing. Research has demonstrated that infants and toddlers who are exposed to TV may suffer from delays in cognitive and language development, and have an increased risk of obesity, poor sleep, irregular sleep schedules and aggression. In response to these recommendations, the authors of the ITERS-R have recently implemented a change in scoring of item 23, ***Use of TV, video and/or computer***. The Additional Notes for Clarification, which were disseminated by the authors of the scale in December 2010, state the following:

"Since the American Academy of Pediatrics states that children under the age of two should not be allowed to view television, due to persuasive research indicating negative effects for these youngest of children, change the age listed in these indicators from 12 to 24 months."

Beginning March 1, 2011 the ERS assessment team will comply with this directive and will score accordingly:

- 1.3 - This indicator must be scored "yes" if television, video and/or computer is used with children under 24 months of age.
- 3.3 - This indicator will be scored "no" if the time allowed for children over 24 months of age to use TV/video is not limited to 30 minutes in a full-day program or computer turns are not limited to 10 minutes.

What this means for child care providers:

Infant and toddler classrooms that are assessed using the ITERS-R will earn a score of 2 or below for item 23 **if:**

- children under the age of 24 months have any use of TV, video or computers
- children over the age of 24 months are allowed to view TV/video for more than 30 minutes in a full-day program
- children over the age of 24 months are allowed to use computer for more than 10 minutes in a full day program

If you have questions about this change to the ITERS-R, please contact Angela Keyes at akeyes@tulane.edu or email dcfs.childcare@la.gov