



There are a variety of tools available for assessing early childhood environments. Below is a list of those tools, along with a description of each. Administrators may use any of these tools to evaluate the quality of the classrooms in their program. The full references for assessing environments are listed at the end of this document, along with additional resources for the topic: *Adapting Environments*.

Tool and reference	Description
"Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale" (Harms, Clifford, & Cryer, 2005)	Evaluates the overall quality of the preschool environment and includes seven subscales: space and furnishings, personal care routines, language, activities, interaction, program structure, and parents/staff.
"Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale" (Harms, Cryer, & Clifford, 2006)	Evaluates the overall quality of the infant or toddler environment and includes seven subscales: space and furnishings, personal care routines, language, activities, interaction, program structure, and parents/staff.
"Holding your Program Accountable: Introducing HighScope's New Preschool Program Quality Assessment" (Epstein, 2003, Summer)	Evaluates overall quality of preschool classrooms on seven dimensions: learning environment, daily routines, adult-child interaction, curriculum planning and assessment, parent involvement/family services, staff qualifications/development, and program management.

REFERENCES FOR ADAPTING ENVIRONMENTS

Koralek, D. (1994). Adapt the environment to meet differing emotional needs. *Teaching Young Children*, 4(2), 8-9.

Watson, A., & McCathren, R. (2009). Including children with special needs: Are you and your early childhood program ready? *Young Children* 64 (2): 20-26. Retrieved from <http://www.naeyc.org/files/yc/file/200903/BTJWatson.pdf>

REFERENCES FOR ASSESSING ENVIRONMENTS

Epstein, A. (2003, Summer). Holding your program accountable: Introducing HighScope's new preschool program quality assessment (PQA). *High Scope Resource/A Magazine for Educators*, 11-14.

Harms, T., Clifford, R. M., & Cryer, D. (2005). *Early childhood environment rating scale* (Rev. ed.). New York: Teachers College Press.

Harms, T., Cryer, D., & Clifford, R. M. (2006). *Infant/Toddler environment rating scale* (Rev. ed.). New York: Teachers College Press.