



Spark ERS Assessment Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What will the program gain from having an ERS assessment?

Assessment results can be used to guide the program's Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI), help set program goals, and highlight program strengths.

2. How long is the observation?

An Environment Rating Scale (ERS) observation is typically 3-4 hours long per classroom or family child care program.

3. Why might there be more than one assessor observing the same classroom or program?

ERS Assessors participate in on-going reliability visits in which one or more assessors participate in the same observation. The reliability assessments are to ensure that all the assessors are fair and consistent.

4. When are the results shared with programs?

Typically, ERS assessment results will be provided within four weeks. CQI ERS assessment results will be determined by the professional who conducts the assessment.

5. Why can't the assessor give the assessment results on the same day as the observation?

During the observation, the assessor is only gathering information. The final results are not determined until the assessor has the opportunity to review the notes and prepare the report. However, the assessor may be able to give some in person feedback.

6. What happens if a program does not understand their ERS assessment results?

For CQI assessment results, programs may communicate with the professional who conducted the assessment.

**For questions about an ERS Assessment, call the Spark Helpline at 1-877-768-8290
or email grishelp@wou.edu**