

Infants and Toddlers Addressed in QRIS

QRIS for early care and education programs sometimes incorporate features that are specific to supporting quality for certain age groups of children, including infants and toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children. The indicators on which programs are rated and the type of technical assistance provided sometimes vary based on age group. This fact sheet describes what the 41 QRIS operating in the United States in 2016 are doing to address the unique needs of infants and toddlers. QRIS are using observational tools; including quality indicators related to curriculum, assessment, and developmental screening; and providing specialized technical assistance.

This fact sheet is one of a series about the state of quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS) in the United States. In 2016, there were 41 fully operational QRIS in the United States.¹ Data are from the QRIS Compendium (<http://QRIScompendium.org>), a catalog of the QRIS operating in the United States as of October 31, 2016.²

Use of Observational Tools

One way QRIS assess the care and learning environment for infants and toddlers is through the use of observational tools that measure quality.

- ◆ The most common tool in use by 30 QRIS (73 percent) is the Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale–Revised (ITERS–R),³ as shown in Figure 1.
- ◆ The second most common observational tool in use is the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)⁴ for infants and toddlers, which 11 QRIS (27 percent) use.
- ◆ Four QRIS added the use of CLASS for infants and toddlers since 2014 (the year the infant version was released), when only seven QRIS were using that tool for assessment.

Mostly, QRIS require a specific score when observational tools like ITERS-R and CLASS are in the rating process for centers.

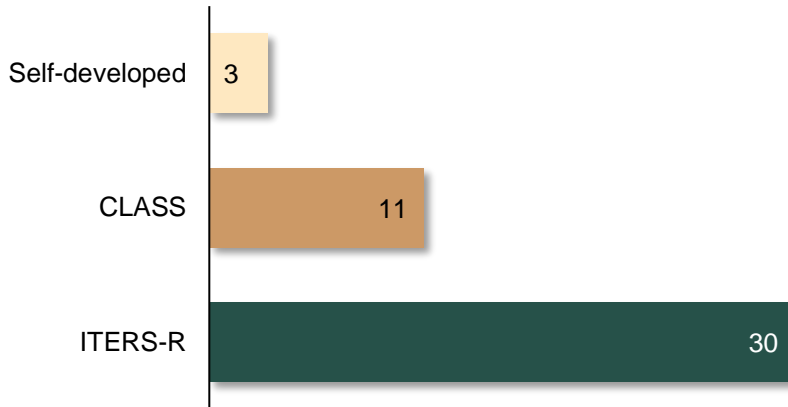
¹ State with a QRIS: AR, AZ, CA, CO, DE, FL (3 localities), GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI. While most QRIS operate at the state level, three represent separate counties in Florida (Duval, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach). The California QRIS, while represented in the Compendium as one system, is implemented at the county level and does not include all counties in the state.

² Data compiled in 2014 and 2015 from <http://QRIScompendium.org> are used to show change in the number of QRIS with specific features. These data are supplemented by an earlier version of the Compendium titled *Compendium of Quality Rating Systems and Evaluations*, which was released in 2010. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/resource/compendium-of-quality-rating-systems-and-evaluations>. Publicly available details about QRIS standards and implementation and interviews with QRIS administrators also inform the fact sheet.

³ <http://ers.fpg.unc.edu/infanttoddler-environment-rating-scale-iters-r>

⁴ <http://teachstone.com/class/>

Figure 1: Number of QRIS Using Infant Toddler Observation Tools, 2016



Note: N = 41 QRIS

Curriculum and Child Assessment

- ◆ Twenty-seven QRIS (66 percent) list specific curricula for infants and toddlers that programs can use to meet QRIS standards.
- ◆ The most commonly listed curricula are Creative Curriculum⁵ and HighScope,⁶ as shown in Figure 2.
- ◆ For child assessment, the HighScope Child Observation Record⁷ for infants and toddlers was the most common, used by seven QRIS (17 percent).

Developmental Screenings

Twenty-four QRIS (59 percent) have quality indicators related to use of developmental screening. The most common screeners for infants and toddlers named in QRIS are the Ages & Stages Questionnaires⁸, included as an option by 12 QRIS (29 percent), and the BRIGANCE Screener⁹, by 7 QRIS (17 percent).

⁵ <https://teachingstrategies.com/solutions/teach/creative-curriculum-infants-toddlers-twos/>

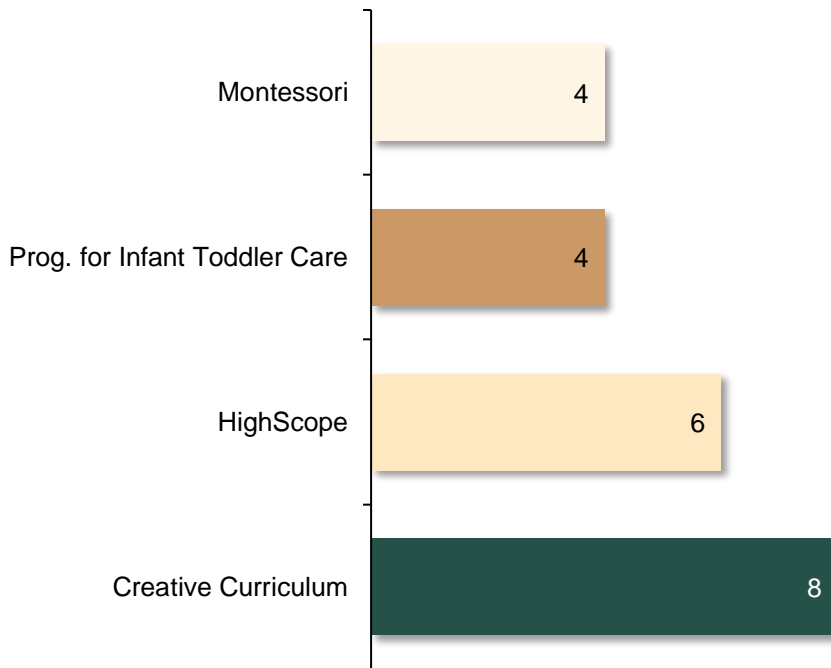
⁶ <https://highscope.org/infant-toddler>

⁷ <https://highscope.org/cor-advantage>

⁸ <http://agesandstages.com/>

⁹ <https://www.curriculumassociates.com/products/brigance-early-childhood.aspx>

Figure 2: Specific Infant Toddler Curricula to Meet QRIS Standards



Note: N = 41 QRIS

Specialized Technical Assistance

Thirty-four (83 percent) of QRIS provide technical assistance that targets infant and toddler care. For example, **Michigan's** Great Start to Quality gives priority to programs that serve infants and toddlers with its technical assistance.

References

The Build Initiative & Child Trends. (2016). A catalog and comparison of quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS) [Data system]. Retrieved from <http://qriscompendium.org/>

Mathematica Policy Research & Child Trends. (2010). *Compendium of quality rating systems and evaluations*. Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/resource/compendium-of-quality-rating-systems-and-evaluations>

Pianta, R. C., La Paro, K. M., & Hamre, B. K. (2008). *Classroom Assessment Scoring System*. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Company, Inc.

This document was developed with funds from Grant # 90TA0002-01-00 for the U.S Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, Office of Child Care, and Health Resources and Services Administration, by the National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance in cooperation with Child Trends. This resource may be duplicated for noncommercial uses without permission.

The National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance (ECQA Center) supports State and community leaders and their partners in the planning and implementation of rigorous approaches to quality in all early care and education settings for children from birth to school age. The ECQA Center is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance

9300 Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22031

Phone: 877-296-2250
Email: QualityAssuranceCenter@ecetta.info

Subscribe to Updates
http://www.occ-cmc.org/occannouncements_sign-up/



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES