



# Provider Information

Center-Based Standards - ABC Child Care Program  
South Carolina Department of Social Services

Name of Provider \_\_\_\_\_ FEIN/SSN# \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Facility (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ FAX # \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Contact person/owner \_\_\_\_\_

0-2 Meets Part I Required Standards I through VII Yes No ITERS-R Score \_\_\_\_\_

ITERS-R: Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Review date \_\_\_\_\_ Enrolled Yes No

3-5 Meets Part I Required Standards I through VII Yes No ECERS-R Score \_\_\_\_\_

ECERS-R: Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Review date \_\_\_\_\_ Enrolled Yes No

6-12 Meets Part I Required Standards I through VII Yes No SACERS Score \_\_\_\_\_

SACERS: Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Review date \_\_\_\_\_ Enrolled Yes No

### Type of Visit

Enrollment visit       Unannounced monitoring visit       Technical Assistance visit

### Provider Type

Private, non-profit       Public       Private, for-profit  
 Church operated/licensed       Head Start Center       School District       Other (define)

## **Introduction**

The following standards constitute the criteria for Level A child care services that the ABC Child Care Program will purchase from South Carolina centers. Level A standards exceed the SC Department of Social Services (SCDSS) licensing and regulatory requirements for Private and Public Child Care Centers (June 2005) and ABC Level B (Enhanced) standards. Providers may enroll in the ABC Program to serve 0-2 year olds, 3-5 year olds, and/or 6-12 year olds. Providers must serve all age groups at the same quality level; a provider cannot enroll at different levels for different age groups. For example, a provider enrolled at Level A for 0 – 2 year olds cannot enroll at Level B for 3 - 5 year olds.

## **ABC Level A Standards**

ABC Level A Standards are divided into two parts. Part I consists of Standards I – VII. Providers must demonstrate their ability to meet these standards before being assessed for Part II requirements. Part II consists of an assessment of the child care center program environment, described in more detail below.

Compliance with Part I, Standards I-VII is based on documentation in the center's Level A application as well as information from the on-site assessment by ABC staff. The assessment of the center's environment (Part II) is conducted during the on-site observation and review.

## **Part I: Standards I - VII**

*Standard I: Regulatory Requirements* - Centers must be licensed/approved by the SC Department of Social Services (SCDSS) Child Care Regulatory Services and meet all regulatory requirements to enroll and maintain enrollment in the ABC Child Care Program. The SCDSS license/approval must be current and in good standing, as defined in Standard I, page 1 of 19 pages.

*Standard II: Supervision of Children* – Centers must meet staff-child ratio and group size requirements to enroll and maintain enrollment in ABC Level A. The reviewer(s) will conduct an analysis of the provider's staff-child ratios and group size to determine compliance with ratio and group size criteria as follows:

<b>Age</b>	<b>Maximum Ratio</b>	<b>Group Size</b>
0-2 years	1:5	10
2-3 years	1:7	14
3-4 years	1:11	22
4-5 years	1:13	26
5-6 years	1:15	30
6-9 years	1:18	36
9-12 years	1:20	40

*Standard III: Staff Qualifications and Development* – Center personnel must meet criteria related to education, experience, and on-going training and professional development.

*Standard IV: Health and Safety* – Centers must meet the Health and Safety regulations of SCDSS Child Care Regulatory Services and the non-corporal punishment policy of the ABC Child Care Program.

*Standard V: Nutrition and Food Service* - Centers must comply with the US Department of Agriculture Child Care Food Program Guidelines as noted in the Child Care Regulatory Services Regulations in a manner that promotes children's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development.

*Standard VI: Staff-Parent Interaction/Involvement* – Centers must meet six specific requirements that involve parents in their children's experiences in the center.

*Standard VII: Administration* – Centers must adhere to six specific requirements that support sound business practices and the quality of center care.

## **Part II: On-Site Program Observation**

Initial on-site visits to determine eligibility for ABC Level A will be scheduled with the center prior to the visit. A number of items under Part I standards will be verified during the visit. ABC staff will inform the center in advance of the items that must be available for documentation during the visit.

The primary purpose of the visit is the assessment of the center environment as it contributes to the positive development of children in its care. Environment Rating Scales (ERS) are used for the assessment by trained ABC staff.

### **Environment Rating Scales (ERS)**

Environment Rating Scales (ERS) are the designated classroom assessment tools for ABC Level A. On the date(s) of the review, the ERS assessment will be completed by the ABC reviewer(s), using the following ERS tools, based on the age of children in the classroom:

Age birth - 2: Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale – Revised (ITERS-R)

Age 3 – 5: Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale – Revised (ECERS-R)

Age 6 – 12: School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale – (SACERS)

The reviewer will provide ratings, ranging from 1 to 7, for the following ERS subscales:

<b><u>ITERS-R</u></b>	<b><u>ECERS-R</u></b>	<b><u>SACERS</u></b>
Space & Furnishings	Space & Furnishings	Space & Furnishings
Personal Care Routines	Personal Care Routines	Health and Safety
Listening & Talking	Language & Reasoning	Activities
Activities	Activities	Interaction
Interaction	Interaction	Program Structure
Program Structure	Program Structure	Staff Development
Parents & Staff	Parents & Staff	Special Needs – Supplementary Items

The reviewer(s) will randomly select 1/3 of the classrooms in each age group to review, using the following guide:

1-4 classrooms = 1    5-7 classrooms = 2    8-10 classrooms = 3    11-13 classrooms = 4

The reviewer will observe in each room selected for each age group for a minimum of three hours. The reviewer will interview classroom staff following the observation in each classroom. The interview will last approximately 30 to 60 minutes and will require classroom coverage by other staff. Only one classroom observation per reviewer can be conducted in a day. A large program may require a team of reviewers over a period of time.

To be enrolled at ABC Level A for the 0-2, 3-5, and/or 6-12 age groups, a center must receive an average score of 4.5 on ITERS-R, ECERS-R, and/or SACERS appropriate for each age group of randomly selected classrooms. If only one classroom is observed in an age group, that classroom score will serve as the “average” score for that age group. Additionally, each classroom observed must earn a minimum score of 4.0 on the Interaction Subscale.

The overall requirement of a 4.5 ERS average score of randomly selected classrooms in each age group allows for a center to accommodate for program weakness in one area by possible strengths in another area. The rating system also provides an evaluation of the program by room and overall center compliance to the standards. Thus, a program failing to meet the minimum score can target areas of non-compliance for improvement.

Clarification of scoring for the subscales can be found in the assessment tools. In-depth clarification can be found in *All About ECERS-R* by Debbie Cryer, Thelma Harms, and Cathy Riley (Pact House Publishing 2003) and *All About ITERS-R* by Debbie Cryer, Thelma Harms, and Cathy Riley (Pact House Publishing 2004).

The completed assessment of the program's performance on the standards will be returned to the provider with notification of successful enrollment or notification of failure to meet enrollment standards.

### **Re-enrollment process to maintain ABC Level A status**

ABC Standards, Part I: A desk review of center records related to Standards I - VII will be conducted annually.

ABC Standards, Part II: An on-site ERS review will be conducted at least once every two (2) years with centers enrolled as ABC Level A centers. Centers will be given a two-week window of time when the visit will occur. ABC staff will give the review date to the center one business

day before the review.

ABC reserves the right to conduct reviews more frequently as deemed necessary to assure quality control of the program standards. If deficiencies are identified and not corrected in the specified time period, the center may be terminated from the ABC Child Care Program.