

**Making Program Assessment a Superpower**  
*for teachers and Administrators*

Lynef Lopez  
Founder and CEO

*Verve*  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
CONSULTING

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Overview**

- Early Childhood Landscape
- History of Program Assessment
- Superpower of ECERS
- Observation - Nature & Science
- Collaborative Coaching & Goals

2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Education is *Progressive***

- ✓ Curriculums
- ✓ State Standards
- ✓ District Goals
- ✓ Students and Families
- ✓ Teaching Staff
- ✓ Administrators
- ✓ State and Federal Initiatives

3

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Education is *Expansive*

- National increase in state preschool funding
- Increase of 3 and 4 year old programming
- District collaborations with community based organizations
- Increased need for early childhood directors, teachers, and instructional coaches
- Improved training programs for teachers pursuing early childhood certifications



4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Education is *Collaborative*

- ✓ Shared vision
- ✓ Synergistic teaching teams
- ✓ Creating a consistent experience for students and families
- ✓ Meaningful professional development



5

---

---

---

---

---

---

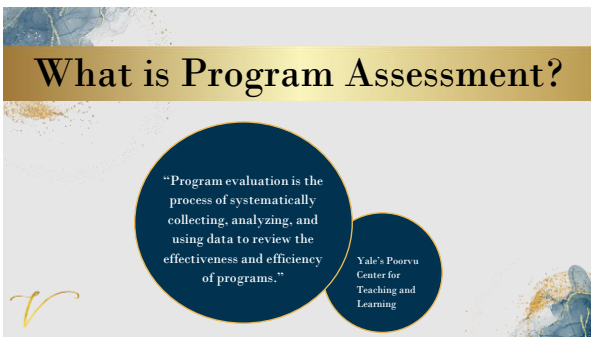
---

---

## What is Program Assessment?

“Program evaluation is the process of systematically collecting, analyzing, and using data to review the effectiveness and efficiency of programs.”

Yale’s Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning



6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## What is Program Assessment?

- ✓ QualitystarsNY
- ✓ Keystone STARS
- ✓ ECERS/ITERS
- ✓ CLASS
- ✓ NAEYC Accreditation



7

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Why is program assessment used?

### Head Start

- Head Start is program to help meet the emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological needs of preschool-aged children from low-income families.
- President Lyndon B. Johnson created **Head Start** in 1965

"I believe that this is one of the most constructive, and one of the most sensible, and also one of the most exciting programs that this nation has ever undertaken."

8

---

---

---

---

---

---

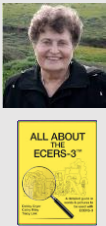
---

---

## Why is program assessment used?

### ECERS

- "Environmental Provision in Day Care", co-authored by Thelma Harms and Lee Cross and published in 1977
- The original **Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS)** by Thelma Harms and Richard M. Clifford was published and made nationally available by Teachers College Press in 1980
- At every stage of development, the authors actively involved early childhood staff, program monitors and teacher trainers to provide feedback and to critique their work



9

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Why ECERS-3?

ECERS-3 has 7 subscales 35 that cover a range of high quality practices.

**SUBSCALES**

- ⊙ Space and Furnishings
- ⊙ Personal Care Routines
- ⊙ Language and Literacy
- ⊙ Learning Activities
- ⊙ Interactions
- ⊙ Program Structure

Within these 7 subscales are 35 indicators with a scoring scale from 1-7.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

10

## POLL

**What areas of programming do you or your teams struggle with the most?**

1. Room arrangement
2. Scientific learning in the classroom
3. Morning meeting/circle time
4. Positive interactions
5. Math learning throughout the day

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

11

## Space and Furnishings

**INDICATORS**

- Indoor Space
- Furnishings for care, play, and learning
- **Room arrangement for play**
- Space for privacy
- Child-related display
- Space for gross motor play
- Gross motor equipment

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

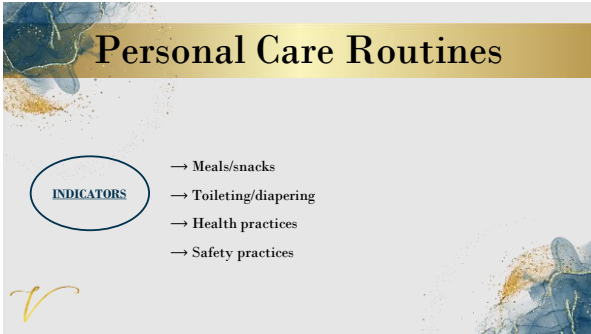
---

12

## Personal Care Routines

**INDICATORS**

- Meals/snacks
- Toileting/diapering
- Health practices
- Safety practices



13

---

---

---

---

---

---

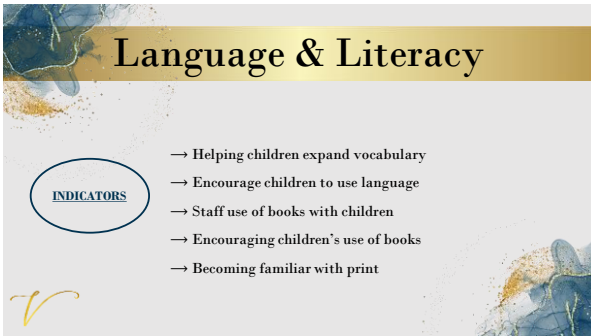
---

---

## Language & Literacy

**INDICATORS**

- Helping children expand vocabulary
- Encourage children to use language
- Staff use of books with children
- Encouraging children's use of books
- Becoming familiar with print



14

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Learning Activities

**INDICATORS**

→ Fine Motor	→ Math Materials & Activities
→ Art	→ <b>Math in Daily Events</b>
→ Music & Movement	→ Understanding Written Numbers
→ Blocks	→ Promoting Acceptance & Diversity
→ Dramatic Play	→ Appropriate Use of Technology
→ Nature/Science	



15

---

---

---

---

---

---

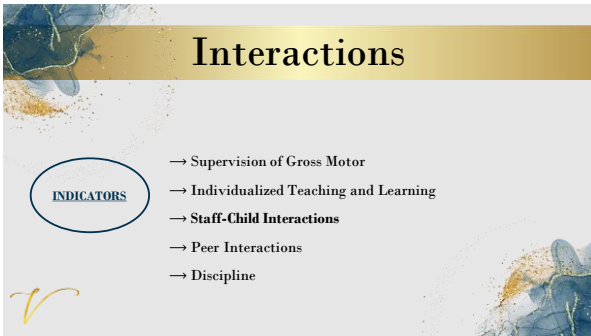
---

---

## Interactions

**INDICATORS**

- Supervision of Gross Motor
- Individualized Teaching and Learning
- **Staff-Child Interactions**
- Peer Interactions
- Discipline



16

---

---

---

---

---

---

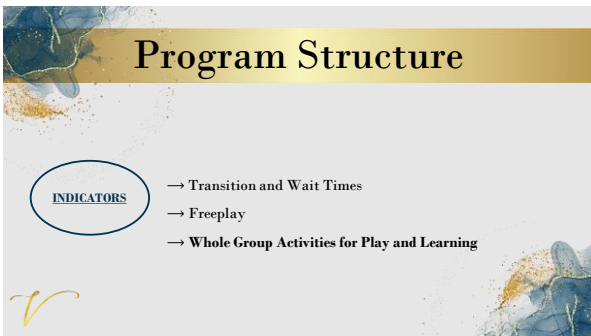
---

---

## Program Structure

**INDICATORS**

- Transition and Wait Times
- Freeplay
- **Whole Group Activities for Play and Learning**



17

---

---

---

---

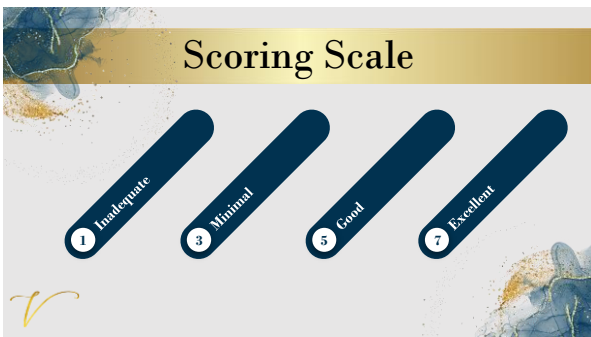
---

---

---

---

## Scoring Scale



1 Inadequate    3 Minimal    5 Good    7 Excellent

18

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Let's take a closer look

### Nature & Science

- Should have it's own distinct interest center
- Materials should include:
  - ✓ living things
  - ✓ natural objects
  - ✓ factual books
  - ✓ tools
  - ✓ sand/water accessibility



19

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Let's Take a Closer Look

**1 Inadequate**

- No nature/science materials accessible
- Staff do not talk about nature or science
- Staff show lack of interest

**3 Minimal**

- At least 5 appropriate materials from at least 2 categories
- Staff do not talk about nature/science with children during observation
- Sand or water, with toys, is accessible for at least 25 minutes

**5 Good**

- At least 15 materials for each of the 5 categories
- Staff use and talk about nature/science materials
- Staff model concern for the environment

**7 Excellent**

- Staff initiate activity for measure, comparing and sorting nature/science materials
- One or more pets/plants present that children can observe, care for and are talked about

20

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

## Next Steps

- ✓ Order the resources (Big Book and Spiral Bound)
- ✓ Commit to understanding the criteria
- ✓ Collaborate with instructional coaches that are ECERS certified/trained
- ✓ Join *ALL THINGS VERVE* email list for upcoming trainings



21

---

---

---

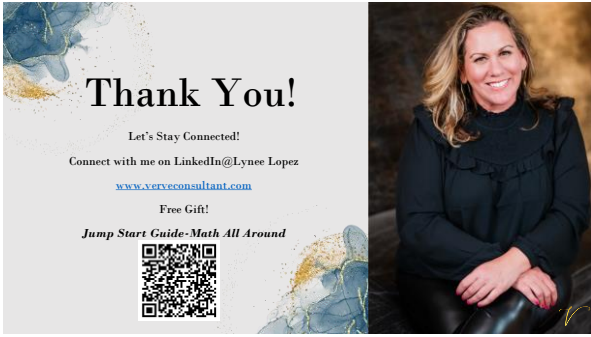
---

---

---

---

---



**Thank You!**


Let's Stay Connected!

Connect with me on LinkedIn@Lynce Lopez

[www.verveconsultant.com](http://www.verveconsultant.com)

Free Gift!

*Jump Start Guide: Math All Around*



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---