



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
 Faith-based sponsored/licensed Head Start Organization School District
 Military Program Other (define)

Level SC's Quality Improvement System

Introduction to ABC Child Care Center Program Standards

The following standards constitute the criteria for Level A child care and development services in South Carolina's ABC Child Care Quality Improvement System. Participation in and reimbursement from the ABC Child Care Voucher System is based on the center's assessed quality level. Level A standards exceed the SC Department of Social Services (SCDSS) licensing and regulatory requirements for Private and Public Child Care Centers and ABC Level B standards. Providers may enroll in the ABC Quality 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 which are required for all Level A/A+ enrolled providers. Providers must demonstrate their ability to meet these standards before being assessed for Part II requirements. Part II consists of an on-site 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 the ABC reviewer(s). 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 at ABC Level A. The SCDSS license/approval must be current with a history of compliance, as defined in Standard I, page 1.

Standard II: Supervision of Children – Centers must meet staff-child ratio and group size requirements to enroll and maintain enrollment at 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:

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

Standard III: Administration – Centers must adhere to nine policy requirements that support sound business practices and the quality of center care.

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

Standard V: Health and Safety – Centers must meet the Health and Safety regulations of SCDSS Child Care Regulatory Services and the Level A policies.

Standard VI: 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 and with the best practices defined by ABC Grow Healthy.

Standard VII: Parent/Guardian Involvement – Centers must meet six specific requirements that involve parents/guardians in their children’s experiences in the center.

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. The Environment Rating Scales (ERS) are used for the assessment by trained ABC reviewers.

Environment Rating Scales (ERS)

The 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:

<u>ITERS-R</u>	<u>ECERS-R</u>	<u>SACERS</u>
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 the ITERS-R, the ECERS-R, and/or the 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.

High performance on the ERS assessment is defined by an average score of 5.0 on the ITERS-R, the ECERS-R, and/or the 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. Scores at this level must be accompanied by the minimum score of 4.0 on the Interaction Subscale for each classroom observed. This high performance is designated as an A+ Level for the review period.

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 three (3) years with centers enrolled as ABC Level A or 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 or

offered the opportunity to apply for enrollment at a lower quality level depending on type and/or the severity of the identified deficiency(ies).