



What is Early Achievers?

Early Achievers is Washington's Quality Rating and Improvement System, administered by the Department of Early Learning. Early Achievers is a voluntary program that gives participating child care professionals access to coaching, professional development and a tangible way to demonstrate their commitment to providing quality care and education for young children.

What is an On-Site Evaluation Visit?

Child care programs that participate in Early Achievers receive on-site evaluation visits from the University of Washington's data collection team. The purpose of the evaluation visit is to observe and gather information about the program in order to create an Early Achievers rating. This rating will be used in the next phase of Early Achievers which will focus on improving the quality of care provided for your child.

What happens during an On-Site Evaluation Visit?

- Data collectors observe a typical day in the classroom, and do their best to stay out of the way and not disrupt the children's typical daily schedule.
- Data collectors conduct observations using the following two tools:
 - **Environmental Rating Scale (ERS)**, used to evaluate the materials available to children and how the children and the teachers interact with these materials.
 - **Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)**, used to look at the interactions between children and teachers and how these interactions relate to the children's development and learning.
- Data collectors review files that the child care program has requested them to look at, to show how the program is meeting quality standards and to identify services provided.

During this process data collectors will not:

- Use individual child names in their documentation of their visit
- Use identifiable child information in their observations
- Look at any child's files without Parent Consent
- Remove any documents from the facility

What are the parent interviews and how can you volunteer?

As part of the evaluation process, parents can volunteer to participate in a phone interview with data collectors or share information by completing a survey online. During the interview parents are asked about the supports and services that the program is providing to them and their child. You can volunteer to participate by completing the parent interview portion of the parent consent form.