Toronto's Journey Towards an Empirically Based Early Childhood Education and Care Accountability System

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Discussion points

- Toronto's QRIS system
- Validation studies for the City's measures of Infant/Toddler and Preschool classrooms in centres
- Preliminary work on understanding quality in Home Child Care
- Using the Outcomes of these Assessments for Planning and Quality Improvement

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Preschool

- Originally a 4-point scale, now it is on a 5-point scale
- 31 domains: programming, environment & interactions
- Confirm through observation or inquiry
- Validation study in 2009
- Tested against Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS-R) and Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)

Preschool
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Testing the validity of Toronto's Measure Preschool Classroom Quality

Study Sample Used for testing concurrent validity	Operational Data Used for testing psychometric properties
78 randomly centres	571 centres (entire population)
118 preschool classrooms classrooms	1116 preschool classrooms
Extensive quality data collected	OC data only

Testing the validity of Toronto's Measure Preschool Classroom Quality

Infant and Toddler 5-point Scale Versions:

- Psychometric Properties :

  - Measure hangs together well, alpha = .93

  - Measure is uni-dimensional

  - But, Interactions can serve as a standalone scale

Testing the validity of Toronto's Measure Preschool Classroom Quality

Preschool 4-point Scale Versions: Concurrent Validity

Measure	Correlation with the Preschool AQI
ECERS-R Total (short form)	.61**
CLASS Emotional Support	.39**
CLASS Classroom Organization	.36**
CLASS Instructional support	.47**

** indicates that the correlation was statistically significant at the .01 level or above
Correlations between the AQI and staff/child ratios and educator level of education were not significant

Infant & Toddler

- 5-point scales
- 24 domains: programming, environment & interactions
- Confirm through observation or inquiry
- Validation study in 2013/14
- Tested against Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale (ITERS-R) and Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)
- Article published in the Early Education and Development journal

Toddler
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Testing the validity of Toronto's Measure of Infant/toddler Classroom Quality

Phase 1: Intensive Measure Development

Sample Type	Sample Size
Randomly Selected Cetnres	110
Infant Classrooms	120
Toddler Classrooms	120
Classroom Staff	720

Collected extensive measures of process and structural quality

Testing the validity of Toronto's Measure of Infant/toddler Classroom Quality

Phase 2: Psychometric Properties and Concurrent Validity

Sample Type	Sample Size
Centre's	39 for infants, 32 for Toddlers
Infant Classrooms	48
Toddler Classrooms	47

Compared to the ITERS-R

Testing the validity of Toronto's Measure of Infant/toddler Classroom Quality

Infant and Toddler 5-point Scale Versions:

- Psychometric Properties :
  - The two version hang together well
    - Infant alpha = .78
    - Toddler alpha = .86
  - Both versions are uni-dimensional

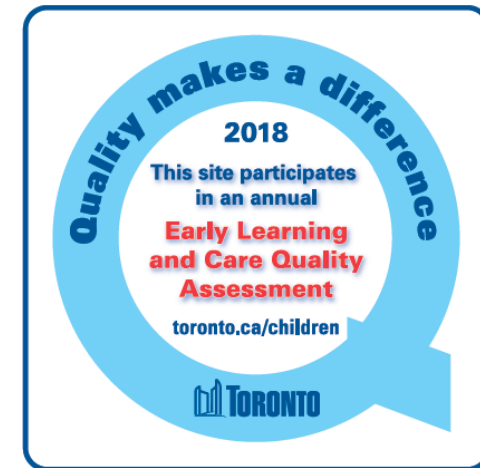# Testing the validity of Toronto's Measure of Infant/toddler Classroom Quality

Infant and Toddler 5-point Scale Versions

- Concurrent Validity

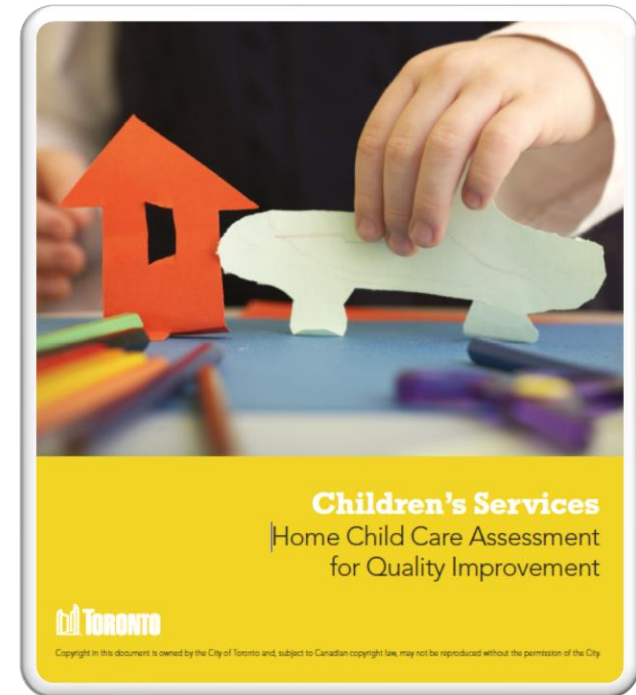| Measure	Infant AQI	Toddler AQI
ITERS-R Total	.312	.357

Other Interesting Facts

- Inter-rater reliability:
  - conducted at least three times a year
  - ensures the document is used in the way it is intended
  - must achieve 80% reliability

- 2017 Quality ratings:
  - Infant - 4.34/5
  - Toddler – 4.26/5
  - Preschool – 4.23/5

Home Child Care

- 3-point scale
- Three sections:
  - 19 domains: programming, environment & interactions
  - 12 domains: health & Safety
  - 3 domains: nutrition
- Confirm through observation or inquiry
- Administered annually in 10%, randomly selected, of Providers homes
- Study 2016, tested against a new measure of quality of interactions in Home Child Care settings and the HOME

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Testing the validity of Toronto's Measure of Home Child Care Quality

Home Child Care 3-point Scale Versions:

- Psychometric Properties :

- All three components hang well together

  - Health and Safety alpha = .72

  - Nutrition alpha = .85

  - Children's Program alpha = .87

Testing the validity of Toronto's Measure of Home Child Care Provider Quality

Home Child Care, 3 Scales on a 3-point Scale

- Concurrent Validity

Measure	Children's Program	Health and Safety	Nutrition
HOME (Physical Environment & Learning Materials)	.455**	.437**	.123
Educator Cognitive Sensitivity	.314*	.418**	.024

Using the Results from these Assessments

The quality assessment outcomes:

- Informs Children's Services professional learning plan:
  - City staff
  - Sector stakeholders
- Supports strategic direction
- Informs the sector about continuous quality improvement
- Supports families to make informed decisions related to their child care choice

Quality makes a difference

2018

This site participates in an annual

Early Learning and Care Quality Assessment

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