

The Child Care Assessment Tool for Relatives (CCAT-R)

The first observation assessment instrument specifically designed to assess relatives (family members) who provide child care for children under six, the CCAT-R is useful for evaluating quality and identifying areas that need to be addressed (program development).

Easy to learn and use, the CCAT-R's 5 components can be completed in a 2-1/2 to 3-hour observation. They are:

- ÿ *The Action/Communication Snapshot*, with items that measure the frequency of caregiver/child interactions around language and activities;
- ÿ *The Summary Behavior Checklist*, with items that measure the frequency of a wide range of behaviors, including caregiver and child affect, activities and nurturing;
- ÿ *The Health and Safety Checklist*, which assesses generally accepted and common equipment and practices;
- ÿ *The Materials Checklist*, which identifies the availability of materials that support development across different domains; and
- ÿ *The Caregiver Interview*, which collects demographic information about the caregiver, as well as data about her attitudes toward child care and her relationships with parents.

Caregiver ratings are based on 4 factors:

- ÿ Social/emotional development
- ÿ Cognitive development
- ÿ Language development
- ÿ Physical development

Observers can achieve 80% reliability on individual items in 2-1/2 days of training, which includes:

- ÿ 1 day of classroom training and 2 field observations with caregivers
- ÿ Detailed manual with explicit definitions of each item
- ÿ Training tape and audiotapes for the observation

The CCAT-R was developed with:

- ÿ Discussions with child care researchers and practitioners
- ÿ Focus groups of caregivers
- ÿ A field test with an ethnically and geographically diverse group of relative caregivers
- ÿ Psychometric testing

For more information about the CCAT-R or CCAT-R training, please contact:

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