

Designed Tool for Evaluating the Quality of Pre-school Education in Saudi Arabia

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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What is the problem?

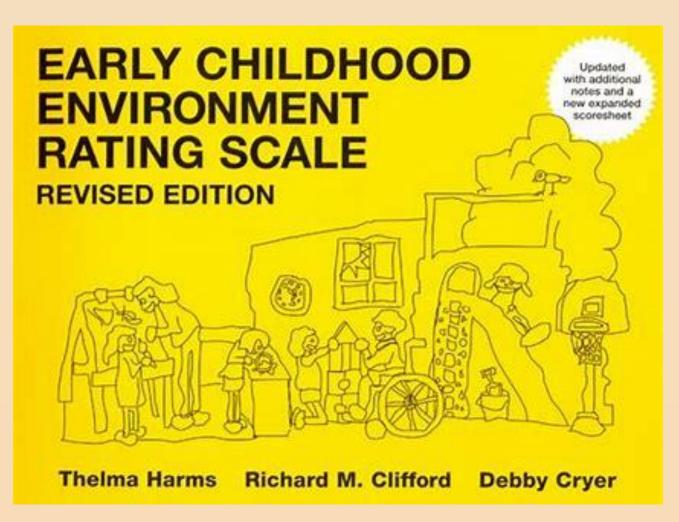
Since preschool education has become the norm for young children in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, there is a growing demand for preschool education services due to the increase of both working mothers, and women who are still part of the education system.

- The increased awareness of the importance of preschool education on the social development of children, economic pressure and western influences.
- The lack of any national regulatory standards or evaluation methods that are used to measure the quality of preschool education.
- The policy system tends to focus mainly on evaluating teachers' performance as the only quality indicator, rather than evaluating the quality of preschool settings as a whole.

The Invented Quality Tool

The invented quality tool consisted of three parts:

(1) The translated and adapted Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised Edition, ECERS-R



(2) The translated and adapted Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Extension, four curricular subscales



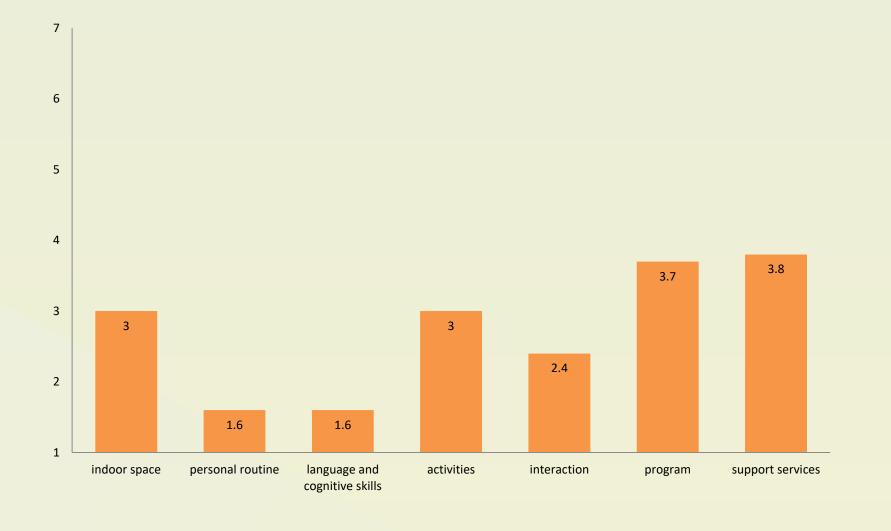
Scores of the ECERS-R and ECERS-E before the invented quality Tool

According to evaluation results, all subscales of both the ECERS-R and ECERS-E are apparently low compared to quality level of preschool centres globally. Some important elements such as safety and health regulations, diversity, parental involvement, and programme structure are also lacking.

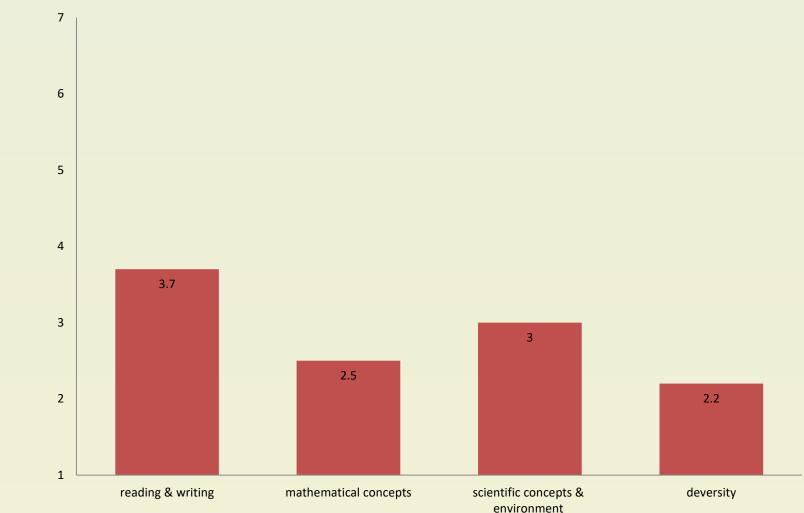
The Designing Process

Underlying the designing process are the following specific questions that were answered:

- 1. What are some of international methods and tools for evaluating and maintaining the quality of preschool education?
- 2.How to develop the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale of Saudi Arabia (ECERS-SA) to accompany existing rating scales that are widely used internationally?
- 3. How to test the reliability and validity of the quality evaluation tool?

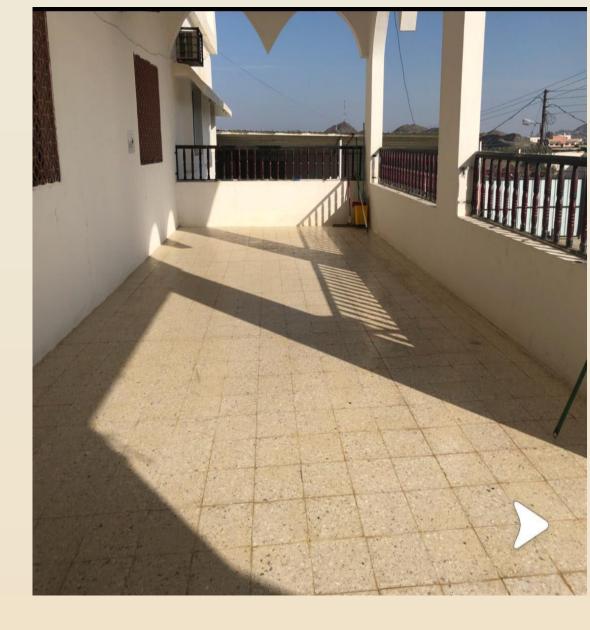






Mean scores of ECERS-E sub-scales





(3) The Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale- Saudi Edition- ECERS-SA



Acknowledgment

Great thanks to the Ministry of Education, Preschool centers, Teachers and supervisors for their useful cooperation.







The Current Position after the Invented Quality tool

