

Child Care Provider News

Tennessee Department of Human Services

Assessor Notes

This year is the 13th year for the child care report card and evaluation program that includes the annual child care assessment for all licensed providers. We in the DHS assessment program wanted to let you know that you will notice a few minor changes we have made to the assessment report that you get when you get your annual DHS Child Care license.

In an effort to make the report easier to understand we have made some changes to the form for the Assessor Notes Report.

This is the part of the assessment where you learn about any scores from the assessment that were scored 3 or lower. The report you will get this year will have the same information but it will look different. Instead of repeating the same issues that were noted in the assessment, such as “Much of the Day” or

“Accessible” the Assessor Notes Report will now have information telling you where to find the definitions for these scale requirements listed at the top of the report.

- ◆ For example if materials were not accessible to children all day long the information about where to find the definition for “accessible” will be listed at the top of the page. The explanations for the items scored 3 or less only include what is required in the item along with what the assessor observed.



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TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES



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This means that your Assessor Notes Report will not be as long as in the past and should be easier to read. At the end of the report we will include contact names and phone numbers you can call with your questions. We have learned that often times you might have one or two questions that can easily be answered on the phone.

The changes noted above were made as a way to improve our communication with providers. Just like any change it might take a little getting used to. The goal we have is to provide you with the assessment information that you can use about the assessment observation that is easy to read and can be used by you and others in the program to make changes to the classroom if you choose to do so.

The report will still include the page that lists all items scoring higher than a three, known as **The Strengths Page**. As a provider you can use this tool to show staff where they are doing great things for children and to talk about the areas of strength in the classroom. The Playground Notes will remain the same. If you have any questions once you get your report card and the Assessor Notes Report please feel free to contact either Child Care Resource and Referral, the Licensing Supervisor/Evaluator or the Assessment Supervisor in your area.

Scheduling Assessments

We wanted to let all of you know that this year we are working hard to complete all assessments at least 6-8 weeks prior to the date the program license expires. Doing so enables your program to get your annual license in a timely fashion and prior to the license period ending. To do this we are scheduling assessments as much as 3-5 months in advance. So when you get a call from the assessment supervisor you both can keep in mind that our goal is to provide you a timely and accurate assessment report that will become a part of your annual license. Please contact the assessment supervisor in your region if you have questions.

