



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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PHIL BREDESEN
GOVERNOR

VIRGINIA T. LODGE
COMMISSIONER

July 27, 2009

Dear Family or Group Child Care Provider:

The Family Day Care Rating Scale (FDCRS) has been used for assessing all DHS-licensed family and group homes since Tennessee's Star-Quality Rating Systems was implemented in 2001. The FDCRS book is no longer in print, so **beginning summer 2010** Assessment Program Evaluators (Assessors) will use the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale – Revised (FCCERS-R) to conduct assessments of family and group child care homes. This scale will be used to complete the assessment for providers whose licenses expire October 31, 2010 and after.

Family and group home providers serve children ages six weeks through school-age in a single group setting which often includes their own children. The provider must meet the needs of every child in the program regardless of the child's age or ability. FCCERS-R recognizes the uniqueness of family home providers and contains items and indicators that assess the environment to include health and safety, language and activities and warm, supportive interaction of each child in care.

For this next assessment year, the new FCCERS-R books will be distributed by Assessors at the completion of your last assessment using FDCRS this year. This one time distribution will give enough time to review the scale and obtain training or technical assistance on the scale before the assessment in 2010. Your local Child Care Resource and Referral Center (CCR&R) will be conducting training on FCCERS-R beginning next spring.

As always, up-to-date information on all aspects of the Star Quality Rated License, including the scales, Tennessee additional notes, and assessment process, is available at <http://www.tnstarquality.org>. In addition, the scheduling letter you receive from assessment and the Newsflash that comes with that letter provides additional important DHS updates.

Be assured that the Department will make every effort to ensure that all family and group home providers have ample opportunity to learn as much as possible about the new scale before its implementation. All of the partners - Licensing, Assessment, the Anchors, CCR&R, TECTA, and TOPSTAR – are available to provide you with an overview, training, mentoring, and/or technical assistance on the FCCERS-R content.

If you require additional information, please contact our office at (615) 313-4769.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara West Wall".

Barbara West Wall, Director
Child Care Services