



How to Measure Caregiver-Child Interactions in Settings that Serve Infants and Toddlers

What is QCIT?

The Quality of Care for Infants and Toddlers (QCIT, formerly the Q-CCIIT) is an evidence-based observational measure of the quality of caregiver-child interactions in early care and education settings that serve infants and toddlers.

Who can use QCIT?

Early childhood administrators, coaches or mentors, practitioners, training and technical assistance providers, researchers, evaluators, and higher education instructors are some examples of those who can use QCIT to better understand the quality of interactions between caregivers and children up to 36 months of age. This understanding of quality can inform professional development, research, or administrator decision making.

QCIT FEATURES

- Based on research and evidence about interactions with infants and toddlers
- Evidence of strong reliability and validity
- Sensitive to change in caregiver practice after professional development
- Appropriate for a variety of classroom settings, including center-based and home-based child care
- Flexible for use in culturally and linguistically diverse settings
- Alignment with evidence-based resources such as the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF)
- Training, manual, instructions for use, and support available

What does QCIT measure?



Support for social-emotional development: How caregivers respond and nurture, create an environment that is warm and positive, and support children's interactions with peers and social and emotional development



Support for cognitive development: How caregivers help children build cognitive skills needed for exploring and learning about the world, problem-solving, and organizing and representing ideas



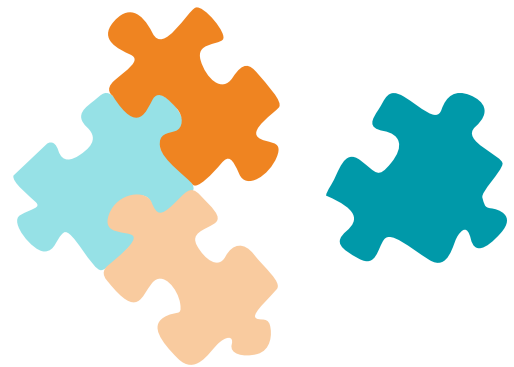
Support for language and literacy development: How caregivers support and extend children's language development through encouraging children's language use



Areas of concern: Issues that might affect a child's physical or emotional health and safety or interfere with cognitive development

Filling a gap in early childhood measurement:

QCIT fills a measurement gap, providing a single measure that can be used in multiple types of settings, and addresses early childhood caregiver competencies, across the 0–3 age span.



QCIT training now available!

For more information about QCIT or to sign up for a training session, contact us at QCIT@mathematica-mpr.com, call us at 1-833-QCIT123 (833-724-8123) (toll free), or visit mathematica.org/toolkits/qcit.



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