



BIG Thinking. Great Results.

## **Branagh Information Group to Present with the Authors of the *Environment Rating Scales* at NAEYC Annual Conference and Expo**

*Posted on November 3, 2014*

Branagh Information Group's Mark Branagh, Cody Carlton and Tricia Sifford will present along with Dick Clifford and Thelma Harms, two of the authors of the *Environment Rating Scales*, at the **upcoming NAEYC Annual Conference & Expo in Dallas, Texas**. Four presentations will be given:

### **Major Advances in Assessing Learning Environments using the *Environment Rating Scales* for Evaluating and Monitoring Quality, Professional Development and Program Improvement**

**Wednesday, November 5, 2014**

**8:30 AM - 11:30 AM • Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center, Room C141**

**Presented by Dick Clifford, Thelma Harms, Mark Branagh, and Cody Carlton**

The *Environment Rating Scales* are used around the world in assessing the quality of learning environments for young children. This session will present major new advances reflected in new editions of the *Early Childhood Environment Ratings Scale* (ECERS 3) and the *School-Age Environment Rating Scale* both released within the last year. In addition the availability of an electronic score sheet (ScorERS) will provide new and improved data entry, scoring and analysis for users of all four of the scales. New online learning resources for the ERS scales will also be discussed.

Participants will have the opportunity to hear from and interact with the authors of these new features of the ERS family of assessment instruments. Research on the new ECERS 3 will also allow participants to evaluate the utility of shifting to the new version and understand how these new features of the ERS materials will help improve the ability to predict child outcomes in early childhood settings.

### **Effectively Using the *Environment Rating Scales* to Guide Continuous Quality Improvement:**

**Where Do I Start?**

**Thursday, November 6, 2014**

**8:00 AM - 9:30 AM • Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center, Room D224**

**Presented by Tricia Sifford**

An *Environment Rating Scale* assessment is designed to give teaching staff much more than a score. Used appropriately, assessment results can provide a road map for planning both classroom and program quality improvement efforts.

Learn how to effectively use the *Environment Rating Scales* for program improvement and answer the questions: What is the best way to get staff to understand the instrument, conduct self-assessments and implement change? How do I create quality improvement plans based on information received after an assessment? Participants will also learn how to create a "commitment to change" atmosphere within their programs helping teachers see the importance of all quality indicators and how each of them play an important part to the overall quality of programs.

**Improving the Quality of Care for School-Aged Children with the *SACERS-Updated Edition*  
(Print and Online Materials)**

**Thursday, November 6, 2014**

**3:00 PM - 4:30 PM • Omni Dallas Hotel, Room Katy Trail**

**Presented by Thelma Harms and Cody Carlton**

This session will introduce the new *SACERS-Updated Edition* of the *School Age Care Environment Rating Scale* as well as the Print Training Materials and on-line SACERS 101 training course.

**A Hands-On Introduction to the New *ECERS-3 Edition***

**Saturday, November 8, 2014**

**1:00 PM – 2:30 PM • Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center, Room D166**

**Presented by Dick Clifford, Thelma Harms, Mark Branagh, Cody Carlton and Tricia Sifford**

This session will introduce the new 3rd edition of the widely used *Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale, ECERS-3*. This new edition enables a more detailed assessment of appropriate language and math learning opportunities as well as a greater focus on teacher/child interaction, while retaining the comprehensive quality assessment approach and the scoring system of the previous editions.

Please join Mark, Cody and Tricia at one of our presentations at the NAEYC Annual Conference & Expo. To register for the conference: <http://www.naeyc.org/conference/>

**About the Presenters**

**Mark Branagh, CEO, Branagh Information Group**

Mark is a software engineer with an extensive background in medical and social science research. With more than 30 years of experience, he has a broad understanding of the technical, theoretical, and practical aspects of data collection and analysis systems. He founded the Branagh Information Group after a decade of working in academic research with the intent of building robust data systems designed to be both of practical value to the front line data collectors as well as program administrators and data analysts.

**Tricia Sifford, Director of Early Learning Initiatives**

Tricia has worked in the Early Childhood Education (ECE) field for 25 years at various levels, with more than 10 years of data analysis experience to assist programs with quality improvement efforts. Her current position with Branagh Information Group involves customer support for users of the QRIS Data System and ERS Data System; support includes assistance with data management, analysis of data collection and data outcome results. Tricia understands that data collection can easily become overwhelming and time consuming and she is excited to share how to make sense of the numbers to tell a story in order to effect change.

**Cody Carlton, E-Learning Director, Branagh Information Group**

Cody has more than 18 years of training experience in both corporate and educational settings. He held positions as an early childhood classroom teacher and an adjunct faculty member in early care and education. While at the South Carolina Department of Education, Cody served as the State Anchor/Coordinator for the ECERS-R, overseeing a statewide team of assessors. In his current position with Branagh Information Group, he oversees the development of online training courses for the Environment Rating Scales in collaboration with the Environment Rating Scales Institute (ERSI).

**About Branagh Information Group**

The Branagh Information Group (BIG) has extensive experience building innovative research and program monitoring database applications. Our data systems are geared toward early childhood evaluation and quality rating improvement systems. BIG creates customized solutions for early child initiatives that can include online training, mobile assessments and quality rating and analysis. BIG is the creator of the ERS Data System, the electronic version of the Environment Rating Scales (ECERS-R, ITERS-R, FCCERS-R, and SACERS) and the Program Administration Scales (PAS, BAS). For more information, please visit [www.BranaghGroup.com](http://www.BranaghGroup.com).