About this book. This international handbook gives a comprehensive overview of findings from longstanding and contemporary research, theory, and practices in early childhood education in the Northern and Southern hemispheres. The first volume of the handbook addresses theory, methodology, and the research activities and research needs of particular regions. The second volume examines in detail innovations and longstanding programs, curriculum and assessment, and conceptions and research into child, family and communities. The two volumes of this handbook address the current theory, methodology In book: Handbook of Research on the Education of Young Children: Third Edition, Edition: Third, Chapter: 30, Publisher: Routledge, Editors: O. Saracho & B. Spodek, pp.426-437. Cite this publication. Dale C. Farran.Â Early childhood quality rating systems are used by states to both assess and improve childcare quality to ensure all children receive high quality early care and education. Investments in QRS have been substantial, yet few evaluations have demonstrated associations between the ratings used to inform parents and policymakers of a programâ€™s quality and the developmental outcomes in children that lead to school success. A volume in Contemporary Perspectives in Early Childhood Education Series Editor Olivia N. Saracho, University of Maryland The Handbook of Research Methods in Early Childhood Education brings together in one source research techniques that researchers can use to collect data for studies that contribute to the knowledge in early childhood education. To conduct valid and reliable studies, researchers need to be knowledgeable about numerous research methodologies.Â It is hoped that this Handbook of Research Methods in Early Childhood Education will serve the needs of many in the research community. Scholars seeking the current state of research knowledge in various areas should find this volume useful.