



Quality

FINDING QUALITY CARE

LOOK FOR A QUALISTAR RATING

What is it?

Developed by 150 early childhood experts, the Qualistar Rating measures quality in licensed early learning programs, both home and center-based, that serve children birth to kindergarten.

This 4-star rating process (with four being the highest) outlines the strengths and weaknesses of the program and provides a detailed plan for continuous quality improvement.

What does it measure?

Trained observers, who spend several hours in each classroom collect information on five different quality components. All of the points that programs earn in each of these quality components are added together to arrive at a Qualistar Rating.

Parents are able to access each program's overall rating score, as well as the details of each of the five quality component areas by visiting www.qualistar.org, and clicking on **FIND CHILD CARE**

The following are the five important quality components each observer focuses on during these visits.

Five Quality Components

Learning Environment

Information collected about a program's learning activities, physical environment, health and safety, and language development. 0-10 points can be earned.

Family Partnership

Information collected on ways a program develops relationships with families, serves as a resource for them and offers them opportunities to be part of their children's early learning experience. 0-10 points can be earned.

Training and Education

Information collected on the work experience and formal early childhood education achieved by the providers working in the home or center. 0-10 points can be earned.

Adult-to-Child Ratio and Group Size

Information collected on the ratio of staff members to children. Programs with lower ratios and groups allow quality individual learning experiences based on a child's needs, and provide stimulating learning activities for all children. 0-10 points can be earned.

Accreditation

Information collected on whether the program is accredited through a national accrediting agency and is following national standards of high-quality early childhood education. 0 or 2 points can be earned.