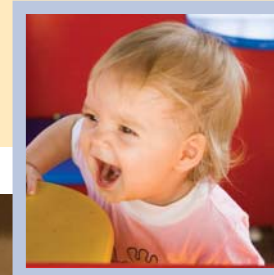


Supporting Your Commitment to Quality Child Care

Qualistar Early Learning's Quality Improvement System



Qualistar Early Learning

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"The benefits are a win win – we are about quality; services for children and families are the most valuable. "

-Child Care Provider



OVERVIEW OF QUALITY IMPROVEMENT STEPS

1. GETTING READY FOR RATINGS

Includes the basic steps that every program can take to ensure that their Qualistar Rating truly reflects the best their program has to offer.

It can be completed as a self assessment or with the guidance of a Qualistar approved coach. Upon completion of the assessment, an action plan is created with concrete strategies to help the program prepare for their Qualistar Rating.

Each section of the self-assessment described above is devoted to a Qualistar Rating component and describes the assessment, the assessment scores, and steps to prepare for the rating.

2. QUALISTAR RATING PROCESS

Observation: Child Care Providers volunteer to have trained quality rating specialists spend several hours in their programs collecting information and evaluating their program on five different quality components.

Rating Score: All of the points that programs earn in each of these quality components (*Learning Environment, Family Partnerships, Training and Education, Adult to Child Ratios, and Accreditation*) are added together to arrive at a Qualistar Rating.

QPP: Once the program has received a rating (provisional to 4 star scale), a Quality Performance Profile is created. This document outlines the program's strengths and areas for improvement, providing them with a detailed action plan and timeline for improvement.

Early Learning Report: This provides detailed program information and serves as a critical tool for parents as they search for quality care for their child. These reports are posted and are available to parents on the Qualistar Early Learning website.



"Anything that holds us to a higher standard is something we want to participate in. We all feel that way. We want to do the best we can for our children and families and staff."
-Child Care Provider



CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCY (CCR&R)

Qualistar Early Learning is the Child Care Resource and Referral network office for the state of Colorado.

Each CCR&R offers classes around the Qualistar Rating, including Orientation to the Rating and Getting Ready for Ratings. Areas of technical assistance may include quality improvement plans, infant and toddler training, along with a variety of other child care topics, and specific program needs.

Providers interested in signing up to participate in the Qualistar Rating or other Quality Improvement Activities, should contact their local CCR&R. Dial 1-877-338-CARE to reach the agency in your area.



3. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT RESOURCES

The philosophy of on-going quality improvement has been embraced by many high-quality early learning programs in Colorado and across the nation.

The process includes regular assessment of critical program areas and the development of a quality improvement plan that outlines opportunity areas and strategies for improvement, benchmarks for success, and overall outcome measures.

Quality Improvement Activities and financial resources that may be available in your community include:

- Pre-licensing support
 - Program coaching
 - Program training and consulting services
- These include, but are not limited to:
- Getting Ready for Ratings
 - Facilities improvements
 - Health and safety
 - Family partnership development
 - Staff development and scholarship support through T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®
 - Curriculum/instructional programs
 - Management/leadership training
 - Business practices
 - Special needs services
 - Mental health
 - Technology issues
 - Mini Grants

QUALISTAR RATING AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FUNDING SOURCES

Contact Your Local CCR&R

Your local Child Care Resource and Referral Office may have funds available for you to use for a Qualistar Rating and/or related Quality Improvement Activities.

Local Foundation Grants

Daniels Fund - grant applications are accepted at any time throughout the year. Decisions are made quarterly. www.danielsfund.org

Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation - grant application deadlines are the first business day of January, May, and September. www.buellfoundation.org

Rose Community Foundation - grant applications are reviewed as they come in. No deadlines. www.rcfdenver.org

"When you improve early childhood education you improve the children's ability to learn. We now have more consistency in our staff, which children need and thrive on." -Child Care Provider



"I decided to participate with Qualistar because of the level of quality that it brings for the children. They are the most important." -Child Care Provider

"I have seen a huge difference in my children, and in my parents. They are more educated, they know about child development, and we are working together." -Child Care Provider