



Quality

WHY QUALITY MATTERS

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Your child's early years are very important. That is why, as a parent, you must demand the best care for them.

Research indicates that 90% of a person's intellectual, emotional and cognitive ability is formed by the age of five, making the early years a vitally important time in a child's life.

When children begin school behind, they stay behind. High quality early learning programs can help close this gap.

We know from 40 years of research that children who receive high-quality care:

- Demonstrate greater social skills throughout their education
- Excel in reading and math
- Have better school attendance records
- Are more motivated to learn and have a higher commitment to school
- Are more likely to graduate from high school and pursue a post-secondary education or training
- Exhibit a lower rate of unemployment
- Have the potential to have higher earnings over their lifetime

A child's earliest teachers must love, respect, and nurture them. Selecting a provider who connects with young children emotionally is critical. It's very important that a family selects a provider who reads to their child every day, encourages curiosity, and allows a child to explore the world around him.

Early Learning Report®

Qualistar is able to provide you with information about the QUALITY of many of the programs you are considering.

Qualistar's Early Learning Report® is a short summary of the strengths and the areas for quality improvement in an early learning program. The report outlines the points that programs scored in each of the quality components of the Qualistar Rating and provides the overall star level that a program received (see page 10).

Although the information contained in these Quality Rating Reports should not be used as a substitute for seeking licensing information, visiting the program and obtaining recommendations from family and friends, it can be a critical tool during your selection process.

Early Learning Reports for more than 150 programs are already online, and that number is expected to grow significantly.

These reports can be found by visiting www.qualistar.org and clicking on **FIND CHILD CARE**.