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Quality Indicators for Child Care Centers

Collaborative for Children's Quality Indicators rate child care centers in various ways:

Texas Rising Star

The Texas Rising Star program is a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) for child care programs. Texas Rising Star certification is available to licensed child care centers that meet the certification criteria.

The Texas Rising Star program organizes measures into four categories. Learn more about each of these categories below.

- Category 1: Director and Staff Qualifications and Training
- Category 2: Teacher-Child Interactions
- Category 3: Program Administration
- Category 4: Indoor/Outdoor Learning Environments

Only providers that participate in the State's Workforce Solutions subsidy system are eligible for TRS. The Star Ratings are posted as the TRS assessments are done. Here is what the Star Ratings mean:

- 4 Star level—meets highest standards in all five categories
- 3 Star level—meets high-quality standards in all five categories
- 2 Star level—exceeds minimum licensing requirements in all five categories

The new Star Rating will make it easier for parents to choose a child care provider with advance level of certification.

For more information about Texas Rising Star, visit www.texasrisingstar.org

Accreditation

Accreditation means that the licensed or registered child care provider voluntarily meets higher quality standards, established by a national accrediting organization, that exceed the Texas Minimum Standard Rules for licensed or registered child care home providers. Accreditation standards address many key child care components, including a safe and healthy environment, child care provider education and training, programming and activities planned according to the child's developmental level.

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Quality Indicators

The Quality Indicator web-based system rates Houston area child care and education facilities as Excellent, Good or Minimal in the following characteristics, and based on the following criteria.

Teacher-to-Child Ratio and Group Size

Excellent: To receive an Excellent Quality Indicator rating for Teacher-to-Child Ratio and Group Size, all classrooms in the center must meet the lower ratios and smaller group sizes established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation standards.

Good: To receive a Good Quality Indicator rating for Teacher-to-Child Ratio and Group Size, a majority of classrooms in a center must meet lower ratios and smaller group sizes than those required by the Texas Minimum Standard Rules for Licensed Child-Care Centers.

Minimal: A Minimal Quality Indicator rating for Teacher-to-Child Ratio and Group Size indicates that the center is meeting the ratio and group size requirements in the Texas Minimum Standard Rules for Licensed Child-Care Centers established by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

For detailed information on teacher-to-child ratios and group sizes established by the NAEYC accreditation standards visit their website, https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/accreditation/early-learning/standards_assessment_2019.pdf

For detailed information on the Texas Minimum Standard Rules for Licensed Child Care Programs, visit their website, <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/providers/protective-services-providers/child-care-regulation/minimum-standards>

Teacher Education and Training

Excellent: To receive an Excellent Quality Indicator rating for Teacher Education and Training a center must meet one of the following two criteria: 1) All lead teachers must have a Child Development Associate credential or higher; or 2) 25% of lead teachers must have an Associate or Baccalaureate degree in Early Childhood Education or Child Development.


Good: To receive a Good Quality Indicator rating for Teacher Education and Training a center must meet the following criteria: 50% of the lead teachers have at least a Child Development Associate credential or 12 credit hours in Early Childhood or Child Development.

Minimal: A Minimal Quality Indicator rating for Teacher Education and Training indicates that all teachers in the center meet the qualifications required by the Minimum Standards (currently high school diploma or equivalent and twenty-four hours of pre-service training).T

Teacher Tenure

Excellent: To receive an Excellent Quality Indicator rating for Teacher Tenure, the average length of employment in the same center for lead teachers must be greater than six years.

Good: To receive a Good Quality Indicator rating for Teacher Tenure, the average length of employment in the same center for lead teachers must be between four and six years.

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Minimal: A Minimal Quality Indicator rating for Teacher Tenure indicates that the average length of employment in the same center for lead teachers is less than four years.

Family Involvement

Excellent: To receive an Excellent Quality Indicator rating for Family Involvement, a center must offer seven or more of the following: family friendly policies; parent advisory boards; parent education; volunteer opportunities; parent meetings; family events; parent communication tools; newsletter; parent conferences.

Good: To receive a Good Quality Indicator rating for Family Involvement, a center must offer four to six of the following: family friendly policies; parent advisory boards; parent education; volunteer opportunities; parent meetings; family events; parent communication tools; newsletter; parent conferences.

Minimal: A Minimal Quality Indicator rating for Family Involvement indicates that a center offers three or fewer of the following: family friendly policies; parent advisory boards; parent education; volunteer opportunities; parent meetings; family events; parent communication tools; newsletter; parent conferences.

For more information about Collaborative for Children, visit www.collabforchildren.org.