



Arizona's Quality Improvement and Rating System for Early Care and Education Programs



Quality Counts!

Quality counts because it changes
the range and quantity of
experiences children have while in
care –
It changes lives.

Longitudinal studies spotlight the
correlation between quality care
and academic achievement.



Quality First!

Arizona's Voluntary Quality Improvement and Rating System for Early Care and Education Programs

Quality
Improvement
Supports



Star Rating

A Two Door System

Quality Improvement System of Supports:

Core Support Team

- Coaches
- Assessors
- Nurse Child Care Health Consultants
- T.E.A.C.H. Arizona
- Financial Incentive Grants

RPC Funded Team

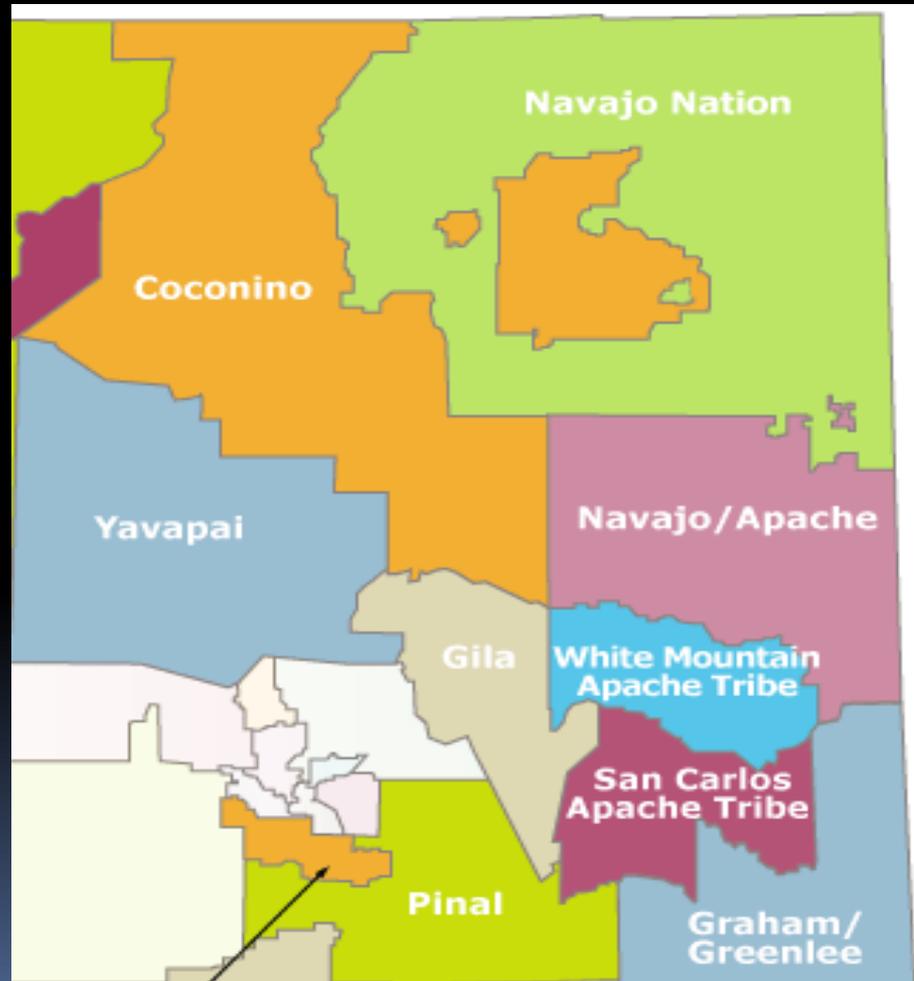
- Smart Support Consultants
- Early Childhood Inclusion Consultants
- Pre-K Expansion Consultants
- Others

QUALITY FIRST!

Valley of the Sun United Way Coaching Collaboration

Southwest
Human
Development

Central Arizona
College

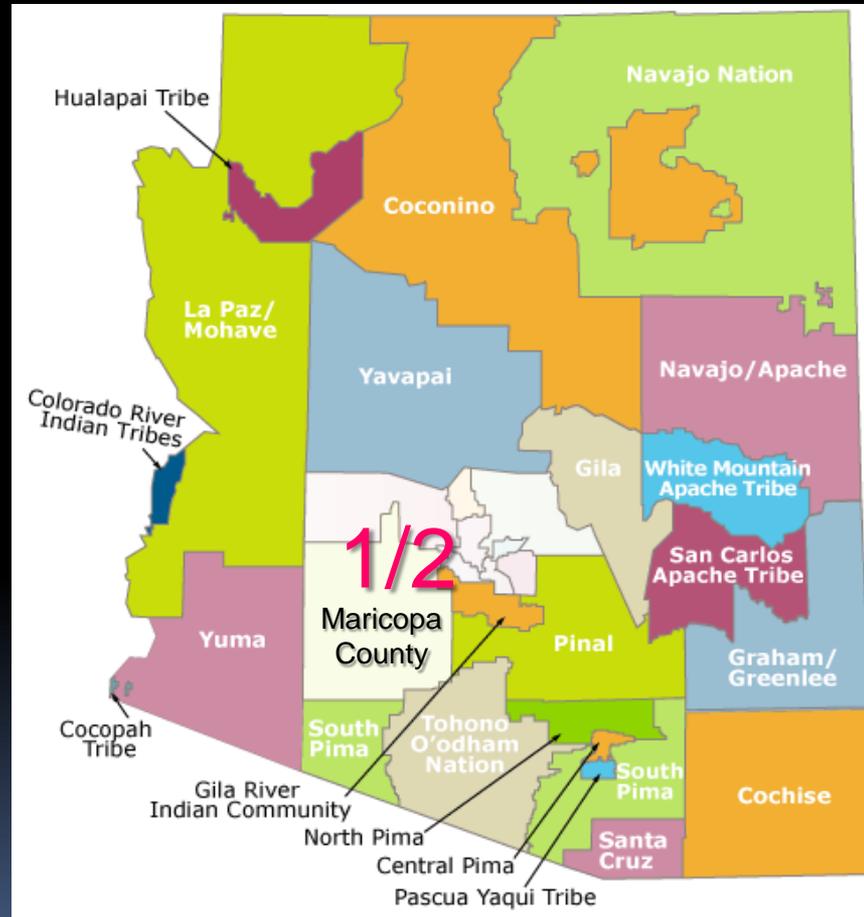


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QUALITY FIRST!

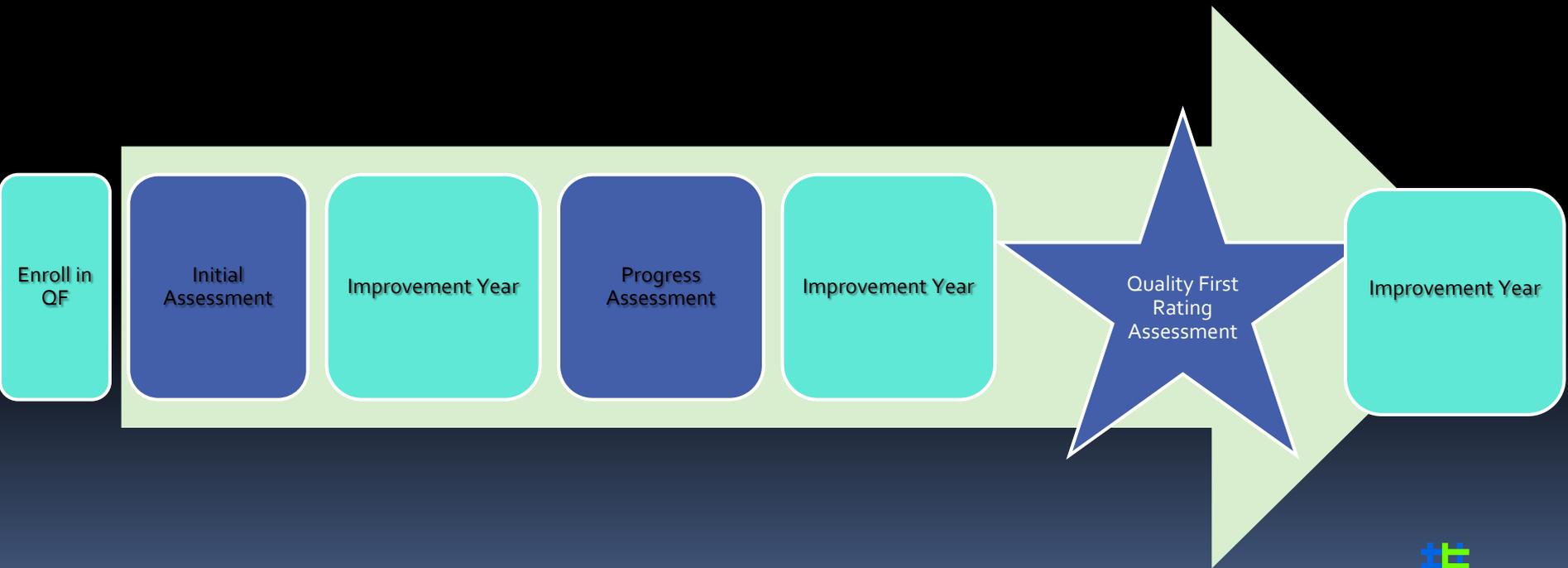
Southwest Human Development Assessment Collaboration

Southwest
Human
Development



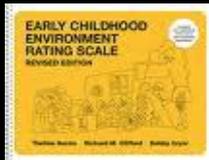
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for
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Child Care

Quality First Program Cycle

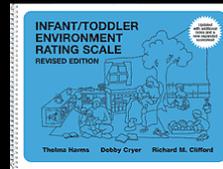


Tools Used for QF Assessment

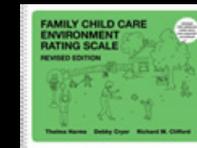
- Early Childhood Environment Rating Scales



ECERS

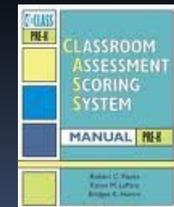


ITERS



FCCERS

- CLASS –
Classroom Assessment Scoring System



Yavapai Programs

Black Canyon City:

- Sunshine Learning Center

Cottonwood:

- Accelerated Learning Center
- Bright Futures
- Buena Vista Preschool
- Buena Vista Preschool-Clarkdale
- First Steps
- Hilltop Christian Preschool
- Kare Bear
- Noah's Arc



Camp Verde:

- Next Generation
- Rays of Sunshine

Chino Valley:

- Christine's Group Home
- Valley Learning Center

Prescott:

- Cedar Tree Playhouse
- Del E. Webb Family Enrichment Center
- Prescott YMCA Early Learning Center
- Prescott Child Development Center
- Sacred Heart Preschool



Prescott Valley:

- All About Kids
- Busy Bee Learning Center
- Grannie's House
- Noah's Arc Child Care
- Teddy Bear Care
- Teddy Bear Care II

Rimrock

- Beaver Creek School Aftershock Program



Improvement Stories

- Toddler rooms equipped with toddler sized furniture
- Children having more choices of activities and materials
- Playgrounds safer with additional cushioning material
- Teachers attending school and implementing what they learn in the classroom
- More purposeful activities planned for children



- Contact Information
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T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®

ARIZONA

A Program of
Association for Supportive Child Care

A Comprehensive Scholarship
Program for
Child Care Professionals



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood ARIZONA is a signature program of First Things First administered under contract with the Association for Supportive Child Care.



The Purpose of T.E.A.C.H.

Teacher Education And Compensation Helps
(T.E.A.C.H.) Early Childhood® is a
comprehensive scholarship program that links
education, compensation, and commitment to
improving the quality of early childhood care
and education experiences for young children
and their families.



Regional T.E.A.C.H. Updates

Yavapai

# of AA and CDA Scholarships Awarded	# of AA and CDA Scholarship Applications Processing	# of Children Benefiting	Dropped/Withdrawn
20	5	160	11

Participating Colleges

Arizona Western College

Central Arizona College

Cochise College

Coconino Community College

Glendale Community College

Eastern Arizona College / Gila Community College

Mesa Community College

Mohave Community College

Northland Pioneer College

Paradise Valley Community College

Phoenix College

Pima Community College

Rio Salado College

Scottsdale Community College

South Mountain Community College

Yavapai Community College

Tohono O'odham Community College

New Addition for Fall 2011*

CHANDLER GILBERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Outreach and Recruitment

- ▣ Attendance at RPC Meetings
- ▣ Regular Communication with Regional Directors
- ▣ One on One Program Visits
- ▣ Identifying and Meeting with Key Early Childhood Stakeholders
- ▣ College Collaborations
- ▣ Collaborating with Quality First Coaches
- ▣ Email, Mail and Phone Communications
- ▣ Attending Regional Events



Barriers to Participation



- ❑ Limited Child Care Programs
- ❑ Teachers/Directors Earning More than the Maximum Income Limit
- ❑ No Teacher Available to Attend with Director
- ❑ Time Requirements
- ❑ Enrollment of Quality First Programs
- ❑ Programs Inability to Pay Release Time and/or Bonus
- ❑ Lack of Understanding About the Importance of Higher Education in Early Childhood Settings

Overcoming Barriers

- ▣ T.E.A.C.H Waivers
 - Financial Waiver
 - Administrative Waiver
- ▣ Hourly Wage Increase
- ▣ Regional Director Collaborations
- ▣ Collaborating with Quality First Coaches
- ▣ Streamlined Process for Enrollment of Quality First Recipients
- ▣ Increased and More Focused Outreach Efforts
- ▣ Flexibility with Director/Teacher Requirement
- ▣ T.E.A.C.H. Specialists Provide Valuable Information About the Benefits of Taking Classes and Earning a College Degree



Celebrating Success

- T.E.A.C.H. ARIZONA has issued over 1100 contracts statewide
- T.E.A.C.H. ARIZONA has authorized more than 8600 college credits to be taken at 18 community colleges throughout Arizona
- The first recipient to receive a T.E.A.C.H. ARIZONA scholarship will graduate in December 2011.
- 16 T.E.A.C.H. Scholars have earned their CDA Credential
- 7 T.E.A.C.H. Scholars have earned their Associates Degree
- T.E.A.C.H. has a waiting list in 5 regions



T.E.A.C.H. Impact

“I would not be back in school if it was not for T.E.A.C.H. The scholarship has opened a whole new avenue for me. Already, in just one quarter, I have learned quite a lot in my ECE class that I am using in my classroom. I hope to learn much more as I continue my education. This will help to improve the education my students receive, as well. Someday I hope to experience teaching in early elementary. Preschool is wonderful, but I look forward to new challenges. The improvements that T.E.A.C.H. has helped with in the classroom are phenomenal.”

-Precious Stones Preschool

“As a first time college student at age 55, I have appreciated the opportunity to take classes at Yavapai College. The scholarship has made this possible and the textbooks provided will be a great resource for years to come. I am becoming more confident in my work and feel the care that the children I teach are getting is of higher quality, which they need and deserve. I pray that this program reaches many.”

-SonShine Learning Center

Contacting T.E.A.C.H.

Program Specialists

1.800.535.4599 or 480.829.0500

T.E.A.C.H. ARIZONA

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Thank you for working to improve
the quality of care and education
for Arizona's youngest population.