QUALITY FIRST
FIRST THINGS FIRST

STAR RATINGS

HIGHEST QUALITY	Far exceeds quality standards
QUALITY PLUS	Exceeds quality standards
QUALITY	Meets quality standards
PROGRESSING STAR	Approaching quality standards
RISING STAR	Committed to quality improvement
NO RATING	Program is enrolled in Quality First but does not yet have a public rating

Criteria include:

- **Health and safety practices** that promote children's basic well being
- **Staff qualifications**, including experience working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers as well as training or college coursework in early childhood development and education
- **Teacher-child interactions** that are positive, consistent and nurture healthy development and learning
- **Learning environments,** including age-appropriate books, toys and learning materials that promote emotional, social, language and cognitive development
- **Lessons** that follow state requirements or recommendations for infants, toddlers and preschoolers
- **Group sizes** that give young children the individual attention they need
- **Child assessment and parent communication** that keeps families regularly informed of their child's development

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RISING STAR	PROGRESSING STAR	QUALITY	QUALITY PLUS	HIGHEST QUALITY
Committed to quality improvement	Approaching quality standards	Meets quality standards	Exceeds quality standards	Far exceeds quality standards
ERS Average Program Score **1.0 – 1.99**	**ERS Average Program Score** **2.0 – 2.99**	**ERS Average Program Score** **3.0 – 3.99** *No classroom score below 2.5*	**ERS Average Program Score** **4.0 – 4.99** *No classroom score below 3.0*	**ERS Average Program Score** **5.0 and above** *No classroom score below 3.0*
CLASS™ Average Program Score N/A	**CLASS™ Average Program Score** N/A	**CLASS™ Average Program Score** ES 4.5 CO 4.5 IS 2.0	**CLASS™ Average Program Score** ES 5.0 CO 5.0 IS 2.5	**CLASS™ Average Program Score** ES 6.0 CO 6.0 IS 3.0
Quality First Points Scale N/A	**Quality First Points Scale** N/A	**Quality First Points Scale** *6-point minimum* SQ 2 AP 2 CA 2	**Quality First Points Scale** *10-point minimum* SQ 2 AP 2 CA 2	**Quality First Points Scale** *12-point minimum* SQ 4 AP 4 CA 4

ERS = Environment Rating Scales
ECERS: Early Childhood Environment
ITERS: Infant/Toddler Environment
FCCERS: Family Child Care Environment

CLASS™ = Classroom Assessment Scoring System™
ES: Emotional Support Domain
CO: Classroom Organization Domain
IS: Instructional Support Domain

Quality First Points Scale
SQ: Staff Qualifications
AP: Administrative Practices
CA: Curriculum and Assessment