QUALITY FIRST!
Early Care & Education
FIRST THINGS FIRST

QUALITY FIRST COMPONENT OVERVIEW

Arizona's Quality Improvement and Rating System

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

- Identifies a program's strengths and areas of improvement
- Initial Assessment / Post Assessment within 12 months
- Assessment Tools: Environment Rating Scales, Classroom Assessment Scoring System
- Focuses on Environment and Adult-Child Interactions
- Assessment results are not made public

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

Enrollment Incentives
$500 Centers $250 Homes

Program Improvement Grants
Up to 50 licensed capacity
51-150 licensed capacity
Over 151 licensed capacity

Quality Improvement Award
$1000 Centers $500 Homes

COACHING

Partners with Participant in Improving Quality

STAR RATINGS

- Star ratings are designed to recognize quality early care and education programs using a five-star system of quality standards.
- Rating Pilot Study is conducted from September 2010-January 2011 to finalize rating instruments and system design.
- Rating Pilot analysis will be conducted and shared with public for comment in Spring 2011.
- Full implementation of rating will begin in July 2011.

CHILD CARE HEALTH CONSULTATION

- Onsite and telephone guidance and consultation
- Staff training on health and safety
- Nutrition and physical activities information
- Connections to community resources
- Information for families

T.E.A.C.H EARLY CHILDHOOD ARIZONA SCHOLARSHIPS

- Formal Education: Child Development Associate, Certificate of Completion or Degree in ECE or related field
- Educational Scholarships: Support for tuition, books, a travel stipend, and paid release time
- Compensation: Providing an incentive in the form of a bonus and/ or raise
- Commitment: Working at current program for a specific period