

About the Child Care Quality System



Child care programs participating in the Child Care Quality System (CCQS) may earn a certified quality rating. Programs with a certified quality rating have practices related to positive outcomes for children verified under the direction of the Department of Workforce Services Office of Child Care (OCC). This process includes verification of the caregivers' and directors' education and professional development, the program's family engagement efforts and many other evidence-based best practices. A guide to each certified quality rating is listed below.



NOTE: As CCQS applications open to licensed family child care programs, on-site observations will not be available, and participating programs will only receive ratings of "Certified Foundation of Quality" and "Certified Building Quality." The Office of Child Care expects to begin conducting on-site observations in family child care programs in 2022.

CERTIFIED QUALITY RATING GUIDE



Foundation of Quality is determined by the Utah Department of Health, Child Care Licensing Program and OCC by recognizing that a program is meeting all required licensing standards and that the program's staff have participated in trainings related to creating quality environments for children. These foundational standards of quality ensure that the children in the program are healthy and safe. All licensed center programs maintaining a license in good standing and receiving a baseline quality score are eligible to receive the "Foundation of Quality" rating.

Building Quality is issued to programs that are implementing practices leading to high quality, including participation in quality environment training, incorporating family engagement programming and providing professional development to staff.

High Quality programs create an environment that not only focuses on the health and safety of the children in the program but also incorporates practices shown to support good outcomes for children, including positive interactions and trusting relationships between educators and children and ongoing professional development and coaching of staff.

High Quality Plus programs build on the important components of quality established at the High Quality rating but continually go beyond the required standards such as developing strong partnerships

with families to support children's development, greater emphasis on early literacy skills and providing opportunities for educators to obtain greater levels of training and education.

ADDITIONAL STATUSES

Default Foundation of Quality is assigned to eligible licensed programs that serve children whose care is covered by a Utah child care subsidy payment and meet licensing safety requirements but do not apply for a quality rating or meet the minimum requirements for a certified quality rating. Beginning June 1, 2021, licensed family child care programs will also be assigned a "Default Foundation of Quality" rating.

Not Participating is a status given to programs that do not want or are not eligible to participate in the Child Care Quality System. Eligible licensed programs who do not serve or intend to serve children whose care is covered by a Utah child care subsidy are given a "Not Participating" status.

Denied Participation is a status assigned to programs that have a conditional license from the Utah Department of Health, Child Care Licensing Program. A conditional license means that the program is at risk of losing their child care license because compliance with licensing rules has not been maintained.

For additional questions about CCQS or child care, please contact your local Care About Childcare agency.

