

QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM

CORE	ELEMENTS	OBSERVATIONS	REQUIREMENTS
CORE I: Child Development and School Readiness	Child Observations	Providers use a curriculum to meet learning needs and may hold parent-teacher conferences.	Use DRDP on every child twice per year
	Health & Developmental Screenings	Providers make sure children receive health screenings and that children are developing on track.	Assess at entry; refer children
CORE II: Teachers and Teaching	Teacher Qualifications	Caring and knowledgeable staff who have a lot of training and rarely quit. Providers have taken classes or earned degrees in Early Childhood Education.	24 units in Early Childhood Education
	Effective Teacher-Child Interactions	Providers that talk, play, read, laugh and interact positively with the kids in their care. Providers develop children's critical thinking skills, language, and curiosity.	Observations in emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support
CORE III: Program and Environment	Ratio and Group Size	Small group sizes and a small number of kids to every adult.	Preschool: 3 adults to 24 children
	Program Environment	Provides a rich learning environment with varied materials, activities and routines. Areas are healthy, clean and safe.	Environmental Rating Scale - 4.0+
	Director Qualifications	N/A	N/A

QUALITY MATTERS RATED PROGRAMS

All of the child care programs in this list are part of Quality Matters, a program that offers training, coaching and financial rewards to help licensed child care programs in Contra Costa County give young children the best quality early care and education they can. All of these programs are committed to quality care. They each have a rating based on the quality of care they provide.

HOW DO I FIND QUALITY CARE?

It can be hard to find and choose the best care for your child. There are different options for licensed child care programs for children ages 5 and under, including:

- Child care centers
- Home-based family child care programs
- Preschool programs

There are benefits to all of these different types of care, but the signs of quality for all of them are the same.

The following resources are available to help you choose the best care for your child and family, and to find a quality program:

CONTRA COSTA CHILD CARE COUNCIL

Contra Costa County's child care resource and referral agency. They offer free child care referrals, online resources and tip sheets to help families find and choose care, financial assistance for low-income working families and more.

CALL: (925) 676-5442

Rating Criteria

Programs are rated on the following. Centers are also rated on director qualifications and ratios/class size.

Quality Ratings:

2

APPROACHING
Quality Standards

3

IMPLEMENTING
Quality Standards


4


MASTERING
High Quality Standards


5

EXCEEDING
High Quality Standards


TEACHER-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

2 Understands positive teacher-child interactions 

3 Has been rated on quality of teacher-child interactions and has plan for improvements 


4 Scores high on providing: 


- Emotional support
- An organized classroom
- Consistent schedules and routines


5 Scores highest on providing: 

- Interactions that build vocabulary, critical thinking skills and curiosity
- Lessons that include children's experiences and ideas


ENVIRONMENT

2 Aware of ways to provide a safe, clean and enriching environment 

3 Has been assessed on providing a safe, clean and enriching environment and has plan for improvements 

4 Rates high on providing: 


- A safe, clean, and enriching environment
- Good health practices


5 Rates highest on providing: 


- A variety of activities, materials and play areas right for a child's age

CHILD SKILLS AND OBSERVATION


2 Observes how children are developing 


3 Uses state-approved tool to support children's learning and development 

4 Evaluates children's learning and development, uses results to help children learn, and holds parent conferences 


5 Enters results into a software program to help each child learn 

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS


2 12 to 24 Early Childhood Education (ECE) college units 

3 24 ECE units, 16 General Ed units, 21 hours of professional development 


4 Associate's degree in ECE 

5 BA degree in ECE 

HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT

2 Ensures children receive annual vision and hearing tests 

3 Checks to see if children are developing on track 

4 Uses a form recommended by pediatricians to check children's development 

5 Also checks children's social and emotional development 



IMPROVING EARLY LEARNING
IN CONTRA COSTA