

## **Fast Facts About Quality Start Riverside County for Early Learning and Community Stakeholders**

Here are some things to know about Quality Start Riverside County and how excellence in early learning helps our community thrive.

### **Quality early learning is important.**

- Nearly 25% of children in Riverside County live in poverty—and poverty is a consistent predictor for school success. For children from low-income families, attending high quality early learning programs are one of the strongest factors in school readiness and long-term school success.
- Attending a high quality early childhood program predicts higher levels of achievement at age 11, a higher likelihood of high school graduation, and a higher likelihood of obtaining a college degree.
- High quality early learning describes safe and nurturing environments that support young children’s social, emotional, and cognitive development, so that they are equipped to excel in school and beyond.

### **Quality Start Riverside County expands access to high quality early learning.**

- Quality Start Riverside County is a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS), part of a state and nationwide movement to improve the quality of early learning programs.
- Quality Start measures the quality of early learning programs using evidence-based, statewide standards of quality.
- Specifically, Quality Start Riverside County looks at programs’ teacher-child ratios and interactions, how safe and engaging the environment is, the training and education of program staff, and how the program supports children’s overall well-being and growth.
- Quality Start provides quality improvement support and professional development for early learning programs, teachers, and administrators to help them raise their quality in the areas where they want to focus.
- Quality Start provides parents and caregivers with a tool for recognizing quality and selecting programs that are best suited for their children.

### **Quality Start creates a system of support for families.**

- Quality Start Riverside County brings together agencies that provide a range of supports and services to families. Together we are building connections between our services to better support children and families.
  - Your participation/support can help us achieve our goals and give more children in Riverside County access to high quality early learning experiences.
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