

Fast Facts About Quality Start Riverside County for Parents

Here are some things to know about Quality Start Riverside County and how it is creating excellence in early learning for children and families.

Quality Early Learning Is Important.

- A child's brain grows faster during their first five years than at any other time of life. High quality early learning experiences can help a child develop skills that will set them up for success throughout their life—like paying attention, getting along with others, and more.
- Research shows that children who have high quality early learning experiences have higher reading, math, and critical thinking skills. This means that they are more prepared for kindergarten and more likely to do well in school.

Quality Start Helps Improve Quality of Early Learning Programs.

- Early education programs volunteer to participate in Quality Start because they are committed to providing high quality care to the children in their care.
- Quality Start helps programs understand the level of quality care they are providing. Some programs choose to be measured and rated using statewide standards for quality early learning.
- All Quality Start programs receive training, personalized coaching, and other supports to help raise the quality of care they provide.

Quality Start Can Help You Choose Quality Care.

- For those programs that choose to be rated, Quality Start has trained staff to observe and measure programs on different elements of quality care, including:
 - How well early educators engage with children and support their learning
 - How healthy and safe the classroom environment is
 - How well-trained and educated the educators are in child development
 - How many children per educator there are in a classroom so that children are receiving one-on-one attention
 - How programs are observing the classroom and making sure they meet each child's unique strengths and needs
- All programs enrolled in Quality Start have demonstrated a commitment to quality. For those that are rated, they are scored on each element of quality. The ratings can range from one star to five stars. All Quality Start programs and ratings are shared on the Quality Start website, which you can find at www.qualitystartrc.org.
- Through Quality Start you can search for and find quality programs that work for you and your family's unique needs.