



Excellence in Early Learning

Quality Start Riverside County Provider Introduction and Orientation Video Script

We're so glad you're interested in Quality Start Riverside County. In this video, you'll learn about:

- Quality Start Riverside County and our county-wide quality rating and improvement system, also known as QRIS
- How we help children, 0 through 5 years of age, and families in Riverside County
- How our work benefits parents, the community, and educators like you
- How you can become a member of our educator community

Let's get started.

Quality Start Riverside County is led by First 5 Riverside and Riverside County Office of Education.

We want every child in Riverside County to have access to high quality early learning environments that build the foundation for success in school and lifelong learning. We work to build an integrated and sustainable approach to strengthening and supporting the quality of early learning environments in Riverside County.

We REALLY value high quality early learning!

What children experience and learn during their first five years makes a lasting impact on their performance in school and for the rest of their lives.

Thanks to recent studies about children and brain development, more and more people around the country are realizing something that you've known all along: the critical value of early care and education.

High quality early learning programs:

- Improve children's development
- Improve health, social-emotional, and cognitive outcomes
- Enhance school readiness, and
- Help close the school-readiness gap

All of this starts with educators like you. Quality Start Riverside County is here to promote

and support our community to achieve these outcomes for children.

Quality Start Riverside County uses tools and resources to support the continuous quality improvement of early learning programs.

Quality Start provides:

- Consistent quality standards
- A process for supporting quality improvement
- Incentives and supports
- Assessments and ratings for some programs, and
- Information to parents and the public about program quality

Quality Start standards help you to understand the ways you are already providing high quality care and the ways you can continue to improve your program.

All of the Quality Start standards are captured in a web-based database system called iPinwheel. It serves as the QRIS management system, and stores child and educator information. You will have free access to iPinwheel.

When you enroll in Quality Start Riverside County, you will have the option to either:

- **Join the Quality Rating and Improvement System, or QRIS:**
 - Your participation in the “quality rating” track begins with meeting a Quality Start Riverside County Coach. Your coach will help you access quality improvement resources, support you in the iPinwheel database system, and answer any questions you may have about Quality Start and assessment and rating.
 - Within 6 to 9 months, you’ll be scheduled for assessment visits, so your program gets a baseline rating of its quality. After that, you will receive your quality rating and use the results from your assessments to create a quality improvement plan, with support from your coach.
 - Or, you can
- **Join the Quality Improvement System, or QIS:**
 - This track is for educators who are aiming for quality, but do not choose to be assessed and rated. Those enrolled in the “QIS track” will also be assigned a Quality Start Riverside County Coach. Your coach will support you with technical assistance, training, and quality improvement resources.

Each year, during the summer enrollment period, you will have the opportunity to switch tracks, if you choose. If you switch from QIS track to QRIS, your first assessment and rating will be scheduled within 6 to 9 months.

Assessments are based on a set of national standards and look at:

- How effectively teachers provide opportunities for children to grow and develop
- How safe, inviting, and age-appropriate the program environment is
- How effectively teachers are trained, prepared, and supported to care for young children

Don't be alarmed by the term "assessment". Your assessment visit is NOT a test. It's a way for you to see how your program is doing so you can get an accurate picture of what you're doing well and what you can continue to improve.

Here's how assessment works:

- First, you will be contacted by an assessor, who will inform you of the assessment process
- Second, one or two assessors will come to visit your program and quietly observe your program while taking notes
- Then, reports will be uploaded into iPinwheel for you to review

Finally, the assessment notes will help you develop a personalized goal for quality improvement.

After your assessment, you will be assigned one of the following ratings.

No matter what rating you receive, you are providing excellent care, above and beyond what is required by licensing standards.

Although assessments and ratings might sound like a lot of work, as a Quality Start participating provider, you have 3 invaluable support systems:

1. Quality Start coaches to guide you throughout the quality improvement journey and provide personalized, responsive mentorship.
2. A community of like-minded educators and a professional learning network with whom you can collaborate and celebrate accomplishments.
3. Access to free trainings and professional development opportunities to help you become an expert educator.

Remember, if you do not feel ready to be rated and assessed, you can still receive training tools and technical assistance from our Quality Start team, as part of our QIS track.

Your commitment to improving the quality of your program through QRIS or QIS puts you in the inner circle of quality child care providers: The Quality Start Riverside County educator community.

Parents use our website to find and enroll their children in high quality early care and education programs like yours.

Enrolling in Quality Start Riverside County is free, as are its support, training, and recognition for participating programs.

The only requirement is your commitment to actively engage in this journey of professional growth and offer lasting impacts for the children and families you work with.

Quality Start Riverside County educators are also recognized for their hard work and commitment.

Quality Start Riverside County offers incentives for participation to its educators, such as:

- Classroom supplies and resource materials
- Monetary incentives and awards, including educator stipends

Quality Start Riverside County is your partner to take your program to the next level.

Joining Quality Start is easy and open to any licensed early education and child care program in Riverside County.

First, you must watch this video. Well done - you're already on your way!

After that, you will register your interest or fill out the agreements to participate in the quality improvement process.

Once you submit your application, you will receive an email from iPinwheel support. Follow the link within the email to complete information to become a provider.

There you have it! Your introduction to Quality Start Riverside County:

- A community effort to improve the quality of early care and education for Riverside County's children ages 0 through 5
- Invested in educators like you. We provide free support, training, and recognition for educators because you deserve it
- Promoting early learning quality through consistent standards, supports, and ratings so that all children receive high quality early care and education

Join today by completing and submitting your application.

Thank you for your interest in Quality Start Riverside County. We look forward to working with you soon!