

STEPS TO QUALITY

Idaho's Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS) for Child Care Centers

Children benefit from high quality early care and education. Steps to Quality provides child care programs with a set of tools to cultivate high quality. We offer a plan for the sustainable growth of your business. We measure the developing quality of your child care program. We publicly recognize your program's success and share it with families throughout Idaho.

At each step, we'll help you grow the quality of your program in these areas:

- Health and Safety
- Staff Education
- Classrooms and Playground
- Inclusion of all Children
- Partnerships with Families & Communities
- Professional Business Practices

In Steps to Quality, a program evolves as it moves from step to step. A successful program implements the quality indicators in its current step, while maintaining the quality of the previous steps. Continuous quality improvement has deep roots.

The goal of Steps to Quality is to help Idaho's child care programs provide a setting where children thrive.



GROWING QUALITY CHILD CARE

1

STEP 1

Anchoring the roots of quality care and education in your child care program.



2

STEP 2

Growing and building upon a budding foundation of quality to ensure solid early care experiences.



3

STEP 3 ★

Star Rated. Celebrating and cultivating a strong and growing level of quality child care that is recognized by the state of Idaho.



4

STEP 4

Maturing and sustaining a vibrant understanding and implementation of quality child care and business practices.



5

STEP 5

Thriving as a child care business and nurturing all children with quality early care and education experiences.



6

STEP 6

Firmly rooted in quality, achieving national accreditation standards that meet the highest requirements for quality care and education.



STEP 1



for Child Care Centers

STANDARD	REQUIREMENTS
Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The program gathers information on immunizations for individual children.• Directors and teachers have current pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR.• Directors and staff annually review the guidelines for recognizing child abuse and neglect.
Staffing and Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teachers and Directors are in the IdahoSTARS PDS Registry.• Teachers complete Essential Training 1 or have a minimum of a current CDA, or 12 ECE credits.• Directors complete Essential Training 1, a minimum of a current CDA, 12 ECE credits or an approved Director's Credential.• Teachers and Directors demonstrate ongoing professional development.
Child Growth, Development and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Directors and teachers complete the Environment Rating Scale: A Tool for Quality Improvement Training (can be completed in Step 1 or Step 2).
Children with Diverse Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No requirement for Step 1.
Strengthening Families and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevention policy in parent and staff handbook includes a policy for preventing child abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse.
Leadership and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program has a system for tracking staff records and professional development.• Program has an emergency plan.• The program completes a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) annually.

Programs have **one year** from enrollment to be verified at Step 1. If the participating program is not verified at Step 1 during the first year of enrollment, the program will be closed in Steps to Quality.