

# 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 2



for Child Care Centers

| STANDARD                                      | REQUIREMENTS   |
|---|--|
| <b>Health and Safety</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Items from the Safe Sleeping Practices Checklist are observed in practice.</li></ul>   |
| <b>Staffing and Professional Development</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teachers complete Essential Training 2 or have a minimum of a current CDA, or 12 ECE credits.</li><li>• Directors complete Essential Training 2, a minimum of a current CDA, 12 ECE credits or an approved Director's Credential.</li><li>• Directors complete NAEYC Human Resource Management Training.</li></ul> |
| <b>Child Growth, Development and Learning</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Initial Environment Rating Scale (ERS) assessment supports improvement of health and safety, positive relationships, and a wide variety of learning opportunities.</li></ul>   |
| <b>Children with Diverse Abilities</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information and resources specific to each community are available to families.</li></ul>  |
| <b>Strengthening Families and Communities</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Program communicates with families in a variety of ways.</li><li>• The Strengthening Families Self-Assessment is completed annually.</li></ul>   |
| <b>Leadership and Management</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Policy &amp; procedure manual is maintained on-site, with job duties &amp; responsibilities of staff.</li><li>• Parent handbook includes policy and procedures around the daily operation of the program management.</li></ul>   |

Programs verified at Step 2 must meet the indicators in this current step, and all previous steps (1).