

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 3 ★



for Child Care Centers



STANDARD	REQUIREMENTS
Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directors are trained and use IRIS. • Items from the Nutrition and Active Physical Play Checklist are observed in practice. • Items from the Thinking Active Physical Play Checklist are observed in practice. • Each classroom completes a Vision and Action Plan for Food and Nutrition annually. • Each classroom completes a Vision and Action Plan for Active Physical Play annually. • The center completes a Vision and Action Plan for Food and Nutrition and Active Physical Play annually.
Staffing and Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers complete Essential Training 3 or have a minimum of a current CDA, or 12 ECE credits. • Directors have a high school diploma or GED. • Directors complete Essential Training 3, a minimum of a current CDA, 12 ECE credits or an approved Director's Credential. • Directors complete 15 additional hours of business management training.
Child Growth, Development and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERS assessment meets minimum overall and interaction scores. • Guidance policy reflects positive responsive practice. • Program formally documents each child's progress.
Children with Diverse Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion statement is included in the program's policy and procedures. • Staff agrees to practice confidentiality as outlined in the program's policy and procedures.
Strengthening Families and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A communication system provides regular opportunities for connecting parents and staff. • Social and educational events and opportunities to volunteer are provided for families.
Leadership and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directors complete the Program Administration Scale Self-assessment annually.

Programs verified at Step 3 must meet the indicators in this current step, and all previous steps (1 and 2).