

# 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 5



for Child Care Centers

STANDARD	REQUIREMENTS
<b>Health and Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All classrooms meet NAEYC guidelines for group size and ratio.</li><li>• A Child Care Health Consultant visits once a year.</li><li>• Health information from a recognized health organization is available for parents.</li><li>• Program hosts one health and safety class for children, parents and/or staff annually.</li></ul>
<b>Staffing and Professional Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teachers have a minimum of a current CDA, or 12 ECE credits.</li><li>• Directors complete 15 additional hours of business management training.</li></ul>
<b>Child Growth, Development and Learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Literacy and numeracy activities are incorporated into daily activity plans.</li><li>• Weekly documentation of each child's progress in daily routines is on file.</li><li>• A Child Growth, Development and Learning Action Plan is completed in each classroom annually.</li></ul>
<b>Children with Diverse Abilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Child Inclusion Plans are completed with families for children with diverse abilities in each classroom annually.</li></ul>
<b>Strengthening Families and Communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Families have opportunities to participate in program development.</li><li>• Two parent teacher conferences are offered during the year.</li><li>• Protective Factors are referenced in strategic planning, program evaluation, and staff/parent engagement.</li></ul>
<b>Leadership and Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No requirement for Step 5.</li></ul>

Programs verified at Step 5 must meet the indicators in this current step, and all previous steps (1, 2, 3, and 4).