

Utah's Child Care Quality System

Children in high-quality child care programs that support their growth and development are better prepared for kindergarten and life.



Quality Ratings for Child Care Providers

Participation is voluntary for child care programs not covered by state child care subsidies, however; all licensed programs will be eligible to receive a rating. All programs that care for children covered by child care subsidies will receive a rating. Each participating provider will receive a rating based on points achieved in five areas that influence quality:

1. Health and Safety
2. Learning Environments and Relationships
3. Leadership and Professional Development
4. Management and Administration
5. National Accreditation

How This Helps Child Care Providers

- **Enhanced Subsidy Grant:** Programs rated High Quality or High Quality Plus may receive a monthly Enhanced Subsidy Grant.
- **A Valuable Marketing Tool:** Receiving a high-quality ranking from the state is an impressive selling point for providers as they promote their business.
- **Funding Resources:** Our office is reallocating funds to help providers achieve a higher rating.

How This Helps Parents

We are committed to help parents make informed choices on child care. The quality of a child care program is important to working parents. The new system is an important way to inform parents about the quality of child care programs so they can select a provider that meets their needs. Parents also consider the location, cost and personal recommendations when making their selection.

Program Feedback

The Office of Child Care values the expertise of the state's child care programs and their efforts to provide safe and healthy settings for children. We received feedback from many programs while developing the system to balance children's needs with a program's business needs. Feedback will continue in the future.

Federal Requirement for Subsidy Rates

The federal law requires all states to consider the level of quality when establishing subsidy rates for child care providers. As a result, Utah must identify the quality of its child care programs and publish the results.

There are four levels of quality ratings that a provider could receive from the new system. Program ratings are available to the public at careaboutchildcare.utah.gov.



Questions? Contact the Office of Child Care at ccqs@utah.gov

