

Quality Standards for Child Care Centers

Learning Environment – Environment Rating Scales-Revised (ECERS, ITERS)

- Subscales: Space-Furnishings, Personal Care Routines, Language-Reasoning, Activities, Interaction, Program Structure
- Based on average scores of sample of classrooms
- Scored on 7-point scale: 1=Inadequate, 3=Minimal, 5=Good, 7=Excellent

1	2	3	4	5
ECERS-R 3.0-3.49	ECERS-R 3.5-3.99	ECERS-R 4.0-4.49	ECERS-R 4.5-5.49	ECERS-R 5.5-7.0
ITERS-R 3.0-3.49	ITERS-R 3.5-3.99	ITERS-R 4.0-4.49	ITERS-R 4.5-5.49	ITERS-R 5.5-7.0

Staff Qualifications (All of the previous levels required)

1	2	3	4	5
Same as FL Licensing: - All staff have completed 40-hour DCF training and 5-hour Early Literacy (in allowed timeframe) - 1 staff per 20 enrolled children have DCF Staff Credential* or higher - Director holds FL Director Credential	- Lead teachers: All have HS diploma-GED, and 50% have DCF Staff Credential* or higher - Assistant teachers: 25% have or are currently enrolled in DCF Staff Credential* or higher - Director holds FL Director Credential	- Lead teachers: All have DCF Staff Credential* or higher - Assistant teachers: 50% have or are currently enrolled in DCF Staff Credential* or higher - Director holds FL Director Credential	- Lead teachers: 25% have Associate degree (or 60 credits) or higher with 18 credits in ECE - Assistant teachers: 75% have HS diploma-GED, and 25% have DCF Staff Credential* or higher - Director holds FL Advanced level Director Credential	- Lead teachers: 50% have Associate degree (or 60 credits) or higher with 18 credits in ECE - Assistant teachers: All have HS diploma-GED, and 50% have DCF Staff Credential* or higher - Director holds FL Advanced level credential plus associate degree (or 60 credits) or higher with 18 credits in ECE
All teaching staff complete DCF required 10 hours annual in-service training	50% of all teaching staff complete 15 hours total annual in-service training	50% of all teaching staff complete 20 hours total annual in-service training	50% of all teaching staff complete 25 hours total annual in-service training	50% of all teaching staff complete 30 hours total annual in-service training

* DCF Staff Credential requirement includes the Birth-Five and School-Age Florida Child Care Professional Credentials (FCCPC)—formerly the FL CDA-Equivalent, the DOE Early Childhood and School-Age Professional Certificates (ECPC or SAPC) or the Child Care Apprenticeship Certificate (CCAC), national CDA or equivalent national early childhood credential, Associate degree or higher in ECE or related field, Associate degree or higher out of field with 6 credits in ECE plus 480 hrs experience. See the website of the Department of Children and Families-DCF child care training: www.myflorida.com/childcare/training

Ratios - Group Sizes

Age	1		2		3		4		5	
	Ratio	Group	Ratio	Group	Ratio	Group	Ratio	Group	Ratio	Group
Infants	1:4	n/a	1:4	12	1:4	8	1:4	8	1:4	8
Ones	1:6	n/a	1:6	12	1:6	12	1:5	10	1:4	12
Twos	1:11	n/a	1:9	18	1:8	16	1:7	14	1:6	12
Threes	1:15	n/a	1:13	26	1:12	24	1:10	20	1:9	18
Fours/ Fives	1:20	n/a	1:16	32	1:13	26	1:10	20	1:10	20

Family Engagement (All of the previous levels required)

1	2	3	4	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family Handbook is written and includes parental rights and responsibilities - Signed acknowledgment of receipt of handbook by parent 	<p>Minimum of 3 modes of communication are used to share child and program information with families</p>	<p>At least 2 family activities per year provided</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Families are invited to scheduled family-teacher conferences to review child's progress and needs and to set goals, x2/ year - Activities provided for children and families to assist with transition to new settings within the child care program and/or to kindergarten 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Families have opportunity to evaluate the provider in writing at least annually - Resources are available to communicate with families in the family's primary language - Developmental screening and referral process is in place for 90% of all children, and results are shared with staff and families - Activity suggestions are developed with staff and families for children identified with potential delays

Program Administration (All of the previous levels required)

1	2	3	4	5
<p>Risk management plan is in place (written action plan for emergencies such as hurricanes, fire, flood, etc. including evacuation routes identified and practice drills)</p>	<p>Personnel policy manual includes written staff orientation procedures and job descriptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff meetings are held at least quarterly - Written performance evaluations are completed annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written operating policies & procedures include standard business and fiscal management practices - Marketing plan is in place to maximize full enrollment - Performance evaluations include classroom observation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salary scale is in place and is differentiated by education, experience - Financial record-keeping system provides quarterly reports and analysis and 1-year projected budget - Performance evaluations include professional development plans

Curriculum (All of the previous levels required)

1	2	3	4	5
<p>Developmentally appropriate curriculum (aligned with Early Learning Coalition process of approving curriculum) has been adopted for all age groups</p>	<p>Lead teachers have received minimum 6 hours/year training on implementation of the curriculum (may be on-site and/or director-led training)</p>	<p>All teaching staff employed 6 months or longer have received minimum 6 hours/ year training on implementation of the curriculum (may be on-site and/or director-led training)</p>	<p>Developmentally appropriate curriculum is fully implemented A system is in place for ongoing child observations</p>	<p>Child assessment guides individualized program planning and communicating with families</p>

Florida Early Learning Coalitions are directed by the state Office of Early Learning to establish lists of appropriate curricula and to establish a procedure for reviewing-approving other curricula.

Calculating the Star Rating

For each component, a score from 1 to 5 is compiled. This component score is multiplied by the weight to achieve total points for each component. Points are then summed, and the total point score is placed on a pre-determined range to identify the program's overall Star quality rating.

	Component	Maximum Points & Weight	Recognition and Extra Points Overall
1	Learning Environment (Environment Rating Scales) ECERS-R, ITERS-R, as applicable to age groups.	5 X 2 = 10 5 X 2 = 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs holding current Gold Seal designation earn a "plus" on the Star rating 1 bonus point is awarded for each teacher and/or curriculum specialist with a Bachelor's degree or higher with 18 credits in ECE working full time in the program (up to 6 points)
2	Staff Qualifications	5	
3	Ratios-Group Sizes	5	
4	Family Engagement	5	
5	Program Administration	5	
6	Curriculum (not included in rating Year One)		
	TOTAL	40	

Point range per Star level

Star 1	Star 2	Star 3	Star 4	Star 5
4-12 points	13-20 points	21-28 points	29-35 points	36-40 points

The Quality Standards for center-based child care programs were developed by the "**Multi-County QRIS Collaborative**" and adopted for use in the Quality Counts Quality Rating Improvement System of Miami-Dade County. The Collaborative includes representatives from Early Learning Coalitions and Children's Services Councils from the following Florida communities: Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Duval, Orange, Leon-Big Bend. Other participants: Office of Early Learning, Department of Children and Families

VISION

- Align the quality standards of the several existing and emerging Quality Rating initiatives in Florida
- Support statewide Quality Rating Improvement System activities of the Florida Office of Early Learning

The QRIS Collaborative quality standards were endorsed by the Florida Office of Early Learning's Early Learning Advisory Council-ELAC on September 28, 2007. ELAC members are the Governor-appointed chairs of the 31 Early Learning Coalitions.