

...AND MARKETING

All centers completing the process receive a window decal and a certificate for display. Providers can request print ready graphic files of the Quality Stars logo to use in brochures and advertising.



FIND OUT MORE

"Earn Your Stars" Manual for Child Care Directors contains step-by-step instructions for earning a rating of 1-Star to 5-Star.

Download the manual at
<http://earlychildhood.msstate.edu/programs/qualitystars>



Quality Stars
Mississippi's Quality Rating and
Improvement System (QRIS)
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QUALITY STARS MISSISSIPPI'S QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM

Quality Stars is Mississippi's tiered quality rating and improvement system. It is administered by the Early Childhood Institute through a grant from the Mississippi Department of Human Services Division of Early Childhood Care and Development. Participation in Quality Stars is voluntary.

The system rates participating early care and education programs according to the quality of the programs in five areas:

1. *Administrative Policy*
2. *Professional Development*
3. *Learning Environments*
4. *Parent Involvement*
5. *Evaluation*

Participating centers must hold a regular license issued by the Mississippi State Department of Health.



Monday - Friday | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
866-706-8827
www.childcaremississippi.org

A program of the Early Years Network, funded by the Mississippi Department of Human Services/Division of Early Childhood Care and Development.



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION SERVICE

THE EARLY YEARS NETWORK



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FINANCIAL BENEFITS...

Centers that serve children receiving child care certificates earn a quality bonus for each eligible child. The bonuses for each Quality Star rating are as follows:

2-Star	7%
3-Star	17%
4-Star	22%
5-Star	25%

Bonuses are based on daily tuition rates for children by age range. Centers report attendance of eligible children. Rates are subject to change by the Mississippi Department of Human Services/Division of Early Childhood Care and Development.



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ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Center has an employee handbook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director completed “Child Care as a Business” course Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) completed, on file and signed by the child care director and the designated service agency. Documentation of one appropriate referral and/or assessment is on file for a child or staff member 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation with implementation of a Professional Development Plan for staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developmental checklist for each child is implemented and documented A transition plan with Local Education Agency for children entering kindergarten is implemented and documented Director to peer mentor at a minimum of 2 hours per month established and documented for the purpose of helping a facility obtain a higher rating in Quality Stars
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director receives twenty (20) hours of annual staff development training Fifteen (15) hours annually of staff development for full time teaching staff by approved training entities per child care licensing regulations will be documented for each staff with no in-house hours being allowed to be counted in the fifteen (15) hours total 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director holds a current DECCD Director's Credential, or a credential approved by MDHS/ DECCD, or an associate or higher degree in child development, early childhood education or a related field Conduct and document monthly staff development meetings At least one staff member holds a current Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher degree in child development, early childhood education or related field Eighteen (18) hours of annual staff development training with ten (10) hours of training specific to the age of children in their care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director holds an Associate Degree in Child Development Technology or Early Childhood Education or higher degree; Bachelor's Degree in Child Development, Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education, Elementary Education or a related field with eighteen (18) credit hours of Early Childhood courses Fifteen percent (15%) of staff has a current Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher degree Twenty (20) hours of annual staff development training with ten (10) hours of training specific to the age of children in their care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director holds a Bachelor's Degree or higher in Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education, Child Development, Elementary Education or related field with eighteen (18) credit hours of Early Childhood courses Twenty-five percent (25%) of full-time teachers has a current Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher degree Twenty-five (25) hours of annual staff development training with ten (10) hours of training specific to the age of children in their care
LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers use weekly lesson plans Learning Centers are being utilized in the classrooms for all children (except infants) Minimum total scores of 3.00 on the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-R (ECERS-R) and/or the Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale-R (ITERS-R) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director trained in Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines Minimum total scores of 3.6 on the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-R (ECERS-R) and/or the Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale-R (ITERS-R) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All teaching staff of infants, toddlers, three (3) and four (4) year old children trained specific to the age of children in their care to use the Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines including the use of on-going child assessment as described in the Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines Minimum total scores of 4.1 on the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-R (ECERS-R) and/or the Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale-R (ITERS-R) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines fully implemented in all classrooms (infants – 4 year olds) On-going child assessments documented and implemented in all classrooms (infants – 4 year olds) Minimum total scores of 5.1 on the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-R (ECERS-R) and/or the Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale-R (ITERS-R)
PARENT INVOLVEMENT		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A designated bulletin board for parent communication Quarterly communication to parents through a newsletter Monthly calendar distribution to parents highlighting classroom activities and home learning activities Annual documented parent-teacher conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly notes to parents describing the activities of the week with copies maintained on file Parent education trainings offered and documented annually Facility provides a parent/family lending library for parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent/family volunteer program is implemented and proof of participation is documented Parent/family resource center is part of the facility's services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation showing that parent/teacher conferences are held at least twice a year Monthly newsletter distributed to parents
EVALUATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Center holds a current Mississippi Child Care License 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director's self-assessment completed on file with a plan of self-improvement that indicates actions to address deficient areas that need improvement Annual Staff evaluations on each staff with the director/supervisor, signed and dated by both parties Center must meet requirements of a 1-Star center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Center must meet requirements of a 2-Star center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent/family survey to rate performance of staff completed and on file Center must meet requirements of a 3-Star center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Center must meet requirements of a 4-Star center