

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 4



for Child Care Centers

STANDARD	REQUIREMENTS
Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classrooms with children ages 0-24 months maintain an adult-child ratio of 1:5 and a group size of 10.
Staffing and Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teachers complete Essential Training 4 or have a minimum of current CDA, or 12 ECE credits.• Directors complete Essential Training 4, 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">• Schedule and lessons plans for each classroom are posted.• A Child Growth, Development, and Learning classroom assessment is completed annually.
Children with Diverse Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inclusion Readiness Checklist is completed for each classroom annually.
Strengthening Families and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program partners with families and/or agencies to support children's retention and success.• One parent-teacher conference is offered during the year.• Parents and staff have an annual opportunity to give the program feedback.
Leadership and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Directors complete the Program Administration Scale Action Plan annually.

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