

Best Practices and Scoring Child Care Centers

Categories of best practices

Family partnerships	Teaching materials and strategies	Tracking learning	Teacher training and education
Communicate with families so that early education is delivered in a way that is respectful of family norms and traditions, and so that parents are involved, contributing members of the learning community that supports children's growth and development.	Have an educational plan and a setting with appropriate, play-based learning materials, and provide the types of child-adult interaction that research has shown makes a difference in children's school readiness.	Observe children's progress toward achieving the skills and abilities needed to be fully prepared for school success to enable providers and early educators to individualize instruction and use that information to enhance communication with families.	Have early childhood educators with education and training on child development and early childhood education. Highly-qualified director or education coordinator. Staff preparation is recorded and documented through the Minnesota Center for Professional Development Registry. Points are awarded based on the steps achieved by staff in the Career Lattice.
10 points possible	10 points possible	10 points possible	10 points possible

Total points possible: 40

Points in all four categories of best practices are totaled. Stars are awarded using the following scale:

1 star = 0 – 11.9 points

2 stars = 12 – 23.9 points

3 stars = 24 – 31.9 points and is using an approved curriculum in preschool classrooms

4 stars = 32 – 40 points and has received a score of 3 or higher for each category of the CLASS in preschool classrooms

Scoring details by category

Family partnerships	Points possible
Program collects feedback from parents	1 point
A written plan is developed for using parent feedback	1 point
Program uses family communication strategies	If 2 strategies, 1 point If 3 strategies, 2 points If 4 strategies, 3 points
Program conducts intake interviews	1 point
Program refers parents to preschool screening	1 point
Program creates transition plans for children	1 point
Program meets with parents about transitions	2 points
Total possible	10 points

Form#: BP-02

Teaching materials and strategies	Points possible
<p>Program uses a research based curriculum and staff have been trained in the curriculum (required for preschool classrooms to achieve 3 or 4 stars) or,</p> <p>Program has activities aligned with the "Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress" (ECIPs)</p> <p>(If program is using a curriculum or ECIPs aligned activities with some, but not all, age groups, partial credit is given.)</p>	<p>3 points (required for preschool classrooms to achieve 3 stars or higher)</p> <p>1 point</p>
<p>Environment Rating Scale</p> <p>Average score of at least 3.5, with no classroom scoring less than 3</p> <p>Average score of at least 4.0, with no classroom scoring less than 3</p> <p>Average score of at least 4.5, with no classroom scoring less than 3</p> <p>Average score of at least 5.0, with no classroom scoring less than 3</p>	<p>1 point</p> <p>2 points</p> <p>3 points</p> <p>4 points</p>
<p>CLASS scores (preschool classrooms only)</p> <p>In each of three (3) categories, if score is 1 or 2</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">If score is 3, 4 or 5</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">If score is 6 or 7</p> <p>All preschool classrooms must receive a CLASS score of 3 or higher in each category (Emotional Support, Instructional Support and Classroom Organization) to achieve 4 stars.</p>	<p>0 points</p> <p>.5 points (required for 4 stars)</p> <p>1 point</p> <p>Up to 3 points possible</p>
<p>Total possible</p>	<p>10 points</p>

Tracking learning	Points possible
<p>Program uses an approved, research-based instructional child assessment tool, and staff have training on its use, or</p>	<p>4 points</p>
<p>Program uses a child assessment tool that has not been approved. (If program is using a tool with some but not all age groups, partial credit is given.)</p>	<p>2 points</p>
<p>Provide families with child assessment results. (If program is using a tool with some but not all age groups, partial credit is given.)</p> <p>If program is using an approved tool, or</p> <p>If program is using an assessment tool that is not approved.</p>	<p>3 points</p> <p>1 point</p>
<p>Use child assessment information to guide instruction and design goals for individual children. (If program is using a tool with some but not all age groups, partial credit is given.)</p> <p>If program is using an approved assessment tool, or</p> <p>If program is using an assessment tool that is not approved.</p>	<p>3 points</p> <p>1 point</p>
<p>Total possible</p>	<p>10 points</p>

Teacher training and education	Points possible
<p>Education coordinator holds a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field (the director may be the education coordinator).</p> <p>Definition of "education coordinator": In many centers the director serves as the education coordinator. However, this could also be another staff person or a lead teacher who also has duties related to helping the program implement the curriculum consistently across classrooms and any other practices related to helping children become ready for school. This is often the staff person who approves the child care program plan as required by Licensing in Rule 3.</p>	<p>Required to achieve 4 stars in this category.</p>
<p>All lead teachers must have professional development plans.</p>	<p>Required to achieve 3 or more stars in this category.</p>
<p>Staff training and education is recorded and documented through the Minnesota Center for Professional Development Registry (http://www.mncpd.org/registry.html).</p> <p>Definition of "lead teacher": A lead teacher is the highest qualified teacher in each classroom. Individuals who split their time between teaching and administrative duties can be considered lead teachers if they work in this capacity at least half time (see rule below).</p> <p>Points are awarded based on the steps achieved in the Career Lattice (http://www.mncpd.org/career_lattice.html). For each lead teacher, points will be awarded as follows: 1 point awarded for step 1, 2 points for step 2, and so on through 10 points awarded for step 10 or higher, then averaged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average score is 3 or less Average score is between 3.1 and 4 Average score is between 4.1 and 5 Average score is between 5.1 and 6 Average score is between 6.1 and 7 Average score is between 7.1 and 8 Average score is between 8.1 and 9 Average score is between 9.1 and 10 Average score is 10.1 or higher <p>Teachers must be at least a half time employee (20 hours per week) or for programs operating part-day programs, teachers must work at least 50 percent of the program's operating hours in order to be considered a lead teacher and have their professional development counted toward this score.</p>	<p>0 points 3 points 4 points 5 points 6 points 7 points 8 points 9 points 10 points</p>
<p>Total possible</p>	<p>10 points</p>