

Best Practices and Scoring

Family Child Care

Categories of best practices

Family partnerships	Teaching materials and strategies	Tracking learning	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 and to enable providers to individualize instruction and use that information to enhance communication with families.	Have education and training on child development and early childhood education. Preparation of the provider is recorded and documented through the Minnesota Center for Professional Development Registry. Points are awarded based on the step achieved 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 (must also be using an approved curriculum to achieve 3 stars)

4 stars = 32 – 40 points

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

Teaching materials and strategies	Points possible
<p>Provider uses a research-based curriculum and has been trained in the curriculum (must have this for preschoolers to achieve 3 or 4 stars) or,</p> <p>Provider has activities aligned with the “Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress” (ECIPs)</p> <p>(If a provider is using a curriculum with some but not all age groups, partial credit is given.)</p>	<p>5 points (must have approved curriculum for preschoolers to achieve 3 stars or higher)</p> <p>2 points</p>
<p>Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS)</p> <p>Average score is at least 3.5</p> <p>Average score is at least 4.0</p> <p>Average score is at least 4.5</p> <p>Average score is at least 5.0</p>	<p>2 points</p> <p>3 points</p> <p>4 points</p> <p>5 points</p>
Total possible	10 points

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

Training and education	Points possible
<p>The training and education of licensed family child care providers is recorded and documented through the Minnesota Center for Professional Development Registry (http://www.mncpd.org/registry.html). Based on the steps achieved in the Career Lattice (http://www.mncpd.org/career_lattice.html), points are awarded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Step 1 in the Minnesota Career Lattice Step 2 in the Minnesota Career Lattice Step 3 in the Minnesota Career Lattice Step 4 in the Minnesota Career Lattice Step 5 in the Minnesota Career Lattice Step 6 in the Minnesota Career Lattice Step 7 in the Minnesota Career Lattice Step 8 in the Minnesota Career Lattice Step 9 in the Minnesota Career Lattice Step 10 or higher in the Minnesota Career Lattice <p>If there is more than one name on the license, everyone on the license must submit documentation to the Registry. Their scores will be averaged to determine the overall program score for this category.</p> <p>If the person whose name is on the license does not work with the children at least half time (20 hours), or at least 50 percent of the program's operating hours if it is a part-day program, the professional development of the lead provider at the site should be submitted to the Registry to be used in scoring this category.</p> <p>Definition of "lead provider": The highest qualified person working with the children at least half time (see rule above).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 point 2 points 3 points 4 points 5 points 6 points 7 points 8 points 9 points 10 points
<p>Family child care providers at steps 1 – 8 are eligible to achieve 2 bonus points if they have professional development plans describing how they will move up to the next step in the Career Lattice. Providers achieving step 9 are eligible for 1 bonus point for having professional development plans. Providers achieving step 10 or higher are not eligible for bonus points for having professional development plans.</p>	<p>Up to 2 points.</p>
<p>Total possible</p>	<p>10 points</p>