

Parent Aware Rating Tool Indicators of Quality

Family Child Care

Designed by child care providers, early learning professionals and parents, Minnesota's voluntary Parent Aware Rating Tool supports our state's children by creating a rating system that identifies, recognizes and celebrates quality in early education.

In order to be rated, a program must:

- Commit to participate (sign a contract).
- Complete orientation.
- Be licensed.
- Submit a program philosophy.
- Submit a health and safety checklist.

Child safety

Programs cannot receive more than 1 star if they have received a maltreatment determination in the past year or have had a negative licensing action, operated under a conditional license or received a fine in the past 6 months.

Quality rating

Points are awarded based on how well programs have incorporated best practices into their programs.

- Programs receive ratings of 1 star, 2 stars, 3 stars or 4 stars.
- Accredited programs completing appropriate documentation receive 4 stars.
- Ratings are assigned based on the number of points programs receive in the four quality indicator categories: family partnerships, tracking learning, teaching materials and strategies, and teacher training and education.

Family partnerships

- Have a formal process to collect and use feedback from parents.
- Communicate regularly with parents, as well as at in-take and for screening.
- Communicate with parents regarding children's transition to kindergarten and between milestones.
- Use individual plans for children's transition to kindergarten and between milestones.

Teaching materials and strategies

- Use research-based curriculum (must use an approved research-based curriculum to receive a rating of 3 or 4 stars).
- Promote an effective learning environment and child-adult interactions (involves Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale onsite assessment).

Tracking learning

- Use research-based child assessment tool to monitor child progress.
- Provide families with child assessment results.
- Use child assessment information to guide instruction and design goals for individual children.

Training and education

- Has recorded and documented his or her training and education in the Minnesota Professional Development Registry (<http://www.mncpd.org/registry.html>).
- Has earned a degree, credential, or is pursuing training to reach a higher step in the Minnesota Career Lattice (http://www.mncpd.org/career_lattice.html). (Points are awarded based on the step achieved.)
- Has completed a professional development plan.