



Maryland's Quality Rating System



Background

- Maryland's quality rating system (tiered reimbursement) began July 1, 2001
- Based on seven major components
- Requirements are applied across program type
- Not part of a rated licensing system
- Incorporates various quality initiatives emphasized in Maryland



Purpose

- Recognizes child care programs that go beyond the requirements of State licensing and registration regulations.
- Four levels recognize progress and achievement of program accreditation, staff credentialing, learning environment, staff compensation, parent involvement, and program evaluation.



Audience and Participation

- Available to licensed child care centers and registered family child care providers only
- Voluntary



Components

- Accreditation
- Staff credentialing
- Learning environment
- Staff compensation
- Parent involvement, and
- Program evaluation



Strong Licensing Regulations

- Training and Professional Development
- Ratios
- Group Size
- Health and Safety
- Primary Caregiver
- Communication with Parents through a daily activity log



Training and Professional Development

Minimum licensing requirements, as of July 1, 2008:

- Lead teachers must have completed a total of 135 clock hours of pre-employment training - the equivalent of 3 college courses
 - Child Development
 - Curriculum Methods, and
 - Infant and Toddler Care
- Be at least 19 years of age and have one year of experience working with young children in an approved setting



Maryland Credential

- Each family child care provider or lead staff person (teachers and directors) must be participating in the Maryland Child Care Credential
- Additional training each year
 - More hours than required by regulation
 - Must be related to the age group
- Participation in professional activities



Health and Safety

- Ratios - 1:3
- Group Size - 6
- Primary Caregiver Assigned
- Daily Communication with Parents
- Hand washing, diapering and feeding policies

Incentives

- Participants receive an additional percentage of subsidy payments for each eligible child
- Higher percentages for children under the age of two
- Access to grant funding for training and accreditation
- Facility can use tiered reimbursement designation as a marketing tool



Since Implementation

- Five Year Action Agenda for young children
- Oversight for child care licensing and subsidy transferred to the Maryland State Department of Education
- Guidelines for Early Childhood Growth and Development for Young Children Birth - 3 developed
- Identification of approved curriculum for family child care providers, preschoolers, and infants and toddlers



Status

- Updating the Action Agenda for Young Children with the goal that all children will enter school ready to learn
- Workgroup charged with revamping and expanding the Tiered Reimbursement System to a full QRIS system

New Stars QRIS

- 1 to 5 stars
- All facilities will receive one star
- Components will include:
 - Licensing History/Compliance
 - Accreditation
(Accreditation)
 - Learning Environment and Program Evaluation
(Learning Environment and Program Evaluation)
 - Staffing and Professional Development
(Credentialing)
 - Administrative Policies, Procedures and Evaluation
(Program Evaluation)
 - Parent and Family Involvement
(Parent Involvement)
 - Authentic Assessment - i.e. Portfolio Development

Contact Information



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