

Children and Youth Partnership for Dare County Dare County Child Care Resource and Referral 2007-2008 Quality Enhancement Program

What is the Quality Enhancement Program?

The Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) helps licensed Dare County child care programs improve and enhance the quality of child care. The program offers evaluation, technical assistance, trainings, and a star-rated license consultation to programs serving children ages Birth - 5 years old who wish to increase their star rating. It is provided by Children and Youth Partnership for Dare County and is administered by Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R).

What is included in the Quality Enhancement Program?

There are four components of the Quality Enhancement Program:

- 1. Initial Assessment and Consultation:** Participants will receive an informational training on the Environment Rating Scale appropriate to their setting. The Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ITERS-R) is used to assess child care center classrooms with children ages Birth through 30 months. The Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R) is used in classrooms with children ages 2-5 years; and the Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale (FCCRS-R) is used to assess the early childhood environment in family child care homes. The Quality Enhancement (QE) Specialist will perform an initial assessment and the lead classroom teacher or family child care professional will complete a self-evaluation using the appropriate scale. Information from the initial assessments, current licensing status, observations made by the QE Specialist, and needs stated by the program will be used to create a 6-9 month action plan for training and on-site technical assistance.
- 2. Training:** DCD approved training will be offered by Dare County Child Care Resource & Referral and will focus on specific items on the Environment Rating Scales. Training offered by CCR&R that is recommended by Quality Enhancement Specialist will be offered to center staff at no charge during participation in Quality Enhancement Program.
- 3. Technical Assistance:** The QE Specialist will work with programs to address areas requiring improvement according to initial scores on the Environment Rating Scales, the QE Specialist's observations, and any requests of the participants. Technical assistance may include on-site visits, modeling, and one-on-one mentoring. Assistant teachers are invited and encouraged to participate in classroom technical assistance.
- 4. Rated License Technical Assistance and Post-Assessment:** Within 6-9 months after the initial Environment Rating Scale assessment, after training and technical assistance have been provided, the QE Specialist will re-assess the program using the appropriate Environment Rating Scale. Scores will be expected to increase by at least .5 points on the Environment Scale with no classroom scoring below 4 points. The QE Specialist will provide specific technical assistance with the star rated license applications to encourage and support programs in the application process.

Who is eligible to participate in the Quality Enhancement Program?

Any fully licensed and church-sponsored GS-110 child care programs caring for children ages Birth - 5 in Dare County is eligible to apply. Applications will be accepted on a first come/ first serve basis. If staff capacity is such that all applicants cannot be served, applications will be prioritized according to the following criteria:

1. The program's capacity for applying for and/or achieving increased licensure by June 30, 2008.
2. The program's capacity for applying for increased licensure within 9 months of initial Environmental Rating Scale assessment.
3. The program's capacity for maintaining current 3-5 star rated license due to expected changes in the 2-component revised rated license.
4. The number of children served by the program.

What are the expected results and outcomes of the Quality Enhancement Program?

- All classrooms or family child care homes participating in the Quality Enhancement Program will improve their Environment Rating Scale score by at least .5 points with an overall score of 4 or higher.
- The participating program will apply for at least a 3-star license or will apply to increase their current 3- or 4-star rating by at least 1 star. (Programs with a 3 - 5 star license under the 3-component system will maintain or increase their star rating under the revised 2-component system.)
- As part of their star rated license application, participating programs will request and participate in an Environment Rating Scale assessment from the NC Rated License Project.

What are the procedures for participating in the Quality Enhancement Program?

1. An original application and request for technical assistance provided by Dare County CCR&R must be completed by the operator and/or director of the child care program.
2. All parties involved will sign an agreement outlining the responsibilities of each party.
3. The Quality Enhancement Specialist will provide technical assistance to requesting programs on a first come/first serve basis, based on the above criteria.

Mail or deliver original application to Dare County Child Care Resource and Referral. Be sure to make a copy for your files. If you have any questions or need assistance with the application please call Janet Terry at 441-4737.

Dare County CCR&R
Attention: Janet Terry
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