



As a parent there's nothing more important than the care, development and education of your child.

Equally important is the need to define, understand and improve child care throughout Louisiana.

This is what Quality Start is all about.



What is Quality Start?

Quality Start is the Louisiana Child Care Rating System that may assist you in choosing child care providers in Louisiana. It is a voluntary program for licensed child care centers. Participating providers are rated on a scale from 1 to 5 stars.

With this rating, parents have another resource to help them make an informed decision about child care.

Quality Start also provides eligible child care centers with support services and additional training, so that they can improve the standards and educational quality of their facility, and earn a higher rating.

How Are Child Care Centers Rated?

Quality Start rates child care centers on a scale from 1 to 5 stars.

1 STAR The center has met the higher requirements of the Louisiana Department of Social Services Child Care Licensing and Regulatory Section and has no outstanding deficiencies. (Louisiana has two sets of licensing regulations—both Class A and Class B may participate.)

2 STARS The center has met all requirements, as well as received specialized training in all Quality Start areas.

3–5 STARS The child care center has received additional specialized training and has met higher staff qualifications, has been evaluated using the Environment Rating Scales (ERS), and has met additional requirements in Administration Practices and Family & Community Involvement.

If It's A Voluntary Rating System, What's the Incentive for A Child Care Provider to Participate?

Child care providers who participate in Quality Start may be eligible to receive these supports:

- Training and technical assistance through the state-wide Child Care Resource and Referral (GCR&R) agencies
- On-site child development consultation and support for challenging child behaviors
- Scholarships for individuals working in child care
- Quarterly bonuses—based on their star rating—for centers who participate in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).
- Tax credits for participating centers and staff through the School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC).



Why Should I Choose A Quality Start Child Care Center?

Three important reasons:

- 1 Research shows quality child care can improve your child's well-being including their readiness for school.
- 2 Child care centers who participate are showing parents their commitment to providing quality child care.
- 3 On your tax return, your family may qualify for the annual **School Readiness Tax Credit** based on the star rating of your child care center, your family income and your child's age.

This public document was published at a total of \$. . . copies of this public document were published in this first printing at a cost of \$. . . The total cost of all printings of this document including reprints is \$. . . This document was published for the Office of Family Support, P O Box 94065, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9065 by the Division of Administration, State Printing Office, to advise the public of benefits of the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). This material was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31.



Where Can I Get More Information?

- Louisiana Department of Social Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education: (225)342-0694 or 1-800-680-9098 or www.qrslouisiana.com.
- Child Care Resource and Referral agency in your region. To find the CCR&R nearest you, call toll-free at 1-866-600-2772 or visit www.laccrra.com.

qualitystart

CHILD CARE RATING SYSTEM

Louisiana Department of Social Services
Division of Child Care and Early Childhood
Education

Child Care Quality Improvement Unit

P.O. Box 94065

Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9065

(225)342-0694 or 1-800-680-9098



In Louisiana
Give Your Child Star Quality

qualitystart

CHILD CARE RATING SYSTEM