

What is Quality Counts California?

Quality Counts California (QCC) is a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), in support of improving the quality of early learning programs and informing parents on what different quality levels mean for the child.

QCC is a collaboration between First 5 California and the California Department of Education, Early Education and Support Division. It is tailored and being implemented locally, using a common set of early learning standards and general guidelines developed collaboratively through a state and local partnership. The local Quality Rating and Improvement System – Early Quality Matters (EQM) assesses and rates voluntary participating programs in the Nevada, Placer and Sierra tri-county partnership. The ratings are based on how a program meets the five-tiered set of program standards, which cover three core areas:

- ★ Child Development and School Readiness
- ★ Teachers and Teaching
- ★ Program and Environment

Why Quality Counts

A child's early years are the most critical for establishing a foundation for learning. The quality of those early experiences can impact a child's well-being, development and readiness for school. Parents need access to high-quality environments that foster learning and support, social-emotional development, maintain appropriate education and training, and provide low teacher to child ratios. QRIS ratings can help parents choose the best early learning and care program for their child. It also helps programs identify areas for potential quality improvement and provides incentives and support to help programs attain and sustain quality and success!

What Parents Can Do

When families are active participants and partner in their child's development, it empowers them as their child's first teacher and positively impacts child development. Reading, talking, singing, and playing with your child helps with the child's development. Support your child's learning at home and in the classroom.

