



Quality Rated FAQs

Quality Rated is an initiative of Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning.



What is Quality Rated?

Parents and families need an independent, trustworthy resource to help them find high-quality child care, preschool, and pre-K programs. Georgia's Quality Rated tool helps families find child care programs in their area that have been evaluated by credentialed early childhood experts and identified as high-quality.

What is a “quality” program?

A quality child care, preschool, or pre-K program provides children with a nurturing and educational environment to help them learn and develop their social skills so they have a strong foundation as they grow.

Why should I use the Quality Rated tool?

Many parents and families don't know where to start in their search for a quality child care program. Quite often, their search is guided by referrals from friends or family. The Quality Rated tool helps parents and families compare child care referrals they receive or those they have gathered through their own research or visits. They can make sure that the program they are considering has been thoroughly reviewed by the State of Georgia and that their ultimate choice of provider is committed to providing their children an environment and experience that is best for their development.

What type of information can be found through the Quality Rated tool?

Quality Rated's one, two, or three star ratings allow families to easily identify high-quality child care and early education programs that are using research-based best practices to prepare children for kindergarten.

When searching for a program for their child, parents and families can explore the different facilities located in their area. Through the Quality Rated tool's search function, they will have access to specific information on each program, such as:

- safety and inspection reports;
- teacher-student ratio;
- hours of operation; and
- transportation options, among many other details.

Quality Rated gives families greater confidence in their child care choice because they know that independent early education experts assess whether programs apply research-based best practices.

What do the different star ratings mean?



All programs that participate in Quality Rated are committed to improving quality care and education by going above and beyond Georgia's licensing standards. In fact, regardless of their star rating, all Quality Rated programs are meeting or exceeding Georgia's child care licensing health and safety standards. Whether these programs receive a one, two, or three star rating, they have all demonstrated dedication to providing a high-quality experience to the children in their programs and the families they serve.

For a more in-depth overview on the specific actions that programs at the various star ratings have put in place to serve the children, parents and families they serve, visit QualityRated.org.

If my child's program does not participate in Quality Rated, does that mean they are low quality?

Just because your child's program isn't participating in Quality Rated, that does not mean their program is failing to meet or exceed high standards. It is up to a child care provider whether or not they choose to be rated under the Quality Rated tool.

We do, however, encourage parents to ask their child's program why they are not participating and to explore all of the financial incentives and other assistance Quality Rated programs receive. Given that all Quality Rated programs are meeting or exceeding high standards, or are on course to meet or exceed those standards, we believe that all child care programs can benefit from participation.

Can I use the tool to compare programs in my area to make the best decision?

Yes. Through our online Quality Rated tool, parents and families can search for providers near them and see the ratings of the various providers.

How can families find a Quality Rated program near them?

Visit QualityRated.org to find a Quality Rated program near you.