



Quality Rated Star Ratings

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



Parents and families need an independent, trustworthy resource to help them find high-quality child care, preschool, and pre-K programs. That's where Georgia's Quality Rated comes in. Through the Quality Rated tool, parents and families can find programs that child care experts have assessed and rated based on factors that contribute to the best environment and experience for children's development.

All programs that participate in Quality Rated are demonstrating a commitment to improve early care and education by going above and beyond Georgia's licensing standards. Whether they have one, two, or three stars, they have all demonstrated dedication to providing a high-quality experience to the children in their programs and the families they serve.

To understand the star rating system consider the Olympics for a moment. Each team or individual in a given event performs the same task—whether a specific gymnastics move, swimming, or distance running. Winners earn their medal based on having one of the best scores or the fastest times. A team or individual that earns any medal—gold, silver, or bronze—all have performed at a high level. This is a good way to think about the Quality Rated star ratings.

Quality Rated programs all provide excellent service to children and their families. Their star ratings just depend upon their level of execution. The programs are assessed in the following areas and earn points based on their portfolio and observations during visits conducted by child care experts:

- employing qualified and well-trained teachers;
- providing a safe, healthy, and caring environment;
- implementing individualized instruction;
- offering a curriculum that prepares children for kindergarten;
- focusing on both active learning and social-emotional development;
- engaging families;

- providing a low teacher-student ratio;
- scoring well on independent observations;
- volunteering for training on how children grow and learn, and how to track children’s developmental progress;
- developing strong relationships with families by learning more about each individual child, and offering them information about community services;
- committing to improving their own training and education in the early learning field;
- committing to school readiness by planning and evaluating daily schedules, learning activities and materials, classroom layout, and health-related practices;
- using activities for children aligned with the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS);
- developing strong relationships with families by having open two-way conversations about their child’s growth and development, and offering information about paying for child and health care;
- planning for and pursuing ongoing learning in the early childhood field;
- using child assessments and curriculum, and working toward making instruction more individualized, stimulating and language-rich in order to promote critical thinking and prepare children for school;
- hiring staff with advanced education credentials who are committed to ongoing professional development and have volunteered for training in some of the following: key areas of children’s development; cultural and socio-economic differences between families; practices that support inclusion; offering healthy meals, and engaging children in physical activity and active play;
- developing strong relationships with families by doing some of the following: sharing assessment results, helping them access family support services, and providing information in families’ primary languages.

Total Points	Star Level
15-24	 QUALITY [™] RATED CHILD CARE
25-35	 QUALITY [™] RATED CHILD CARE
36-45	 QUALITY [™] RATED CHILD CARE

The Quality Rated search tool and rating system helps parents and families make the most informed choice for their child and provide them with a bright start to their future.