

## What Every Family Should Know About Quality Rated



QualityRated.org

### **Quality Rated is what parents and families want.**

- Finding the right child care, preschool or pre-K program is so important, and families want useful, reliable tools that help them make the best choices for their child.
- 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.
  - Quality Rated is a tool that helps families find child care programs in their area that have been evaluated by credentialed early childhood experts and identified as high quality.
  - 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.
  - Families want to make the best choices for their child's growth and development so that they have a bright start in life.
  - Parents and families who use Quality Rated can have peace of mind knowing they have a tool to identify high-quality programs, so that when they search for child care, they can focus on the details that matter most to their family.

### **Quality Rated is user-friendly, helpful, and credible.**

- Quality Rated has an online database where Georgia parents and families can find information on quality early care programs in their area—regardless of what type of provider they prefer, whether at a home, a preschool at a center or a program at a school.
- All child care providers that participate in Quality Rated – whether they have one, two or three stars – *have gone above and beyond state health and safety requirements* to provide a high-quality experience to the children in their programs.

- Parents and families can use Quality Rated to cross-check child care referrals they receive from families and friends or through other research they've done. They can make sure that the program they are considering is evaluated by the State of Georgia and committed to providing children an environment and experience that is best for their development.
- Like rating systems for restaurants and hotels, Quality Rated is easy for parents and families to understand and use.
- 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 such as:
  - Employing qualified and well-trained teachers
  - Providing a safe, healthy, and caring environment
  - Implementing individualized instruction
  - Offering a curriculum that prepares kids for kindergarten
  - Focusing on both active learning and social-emotional development
  - Engaging families
  - Providing a low teacher-student ratio
- Quality Rated helps parents and families make the most informed choice for their child and provide them a bright start to their future.

#### **How long has Quality Rated been in Georgia?**

- Georgia Governor Nathan Deal introduced Quality Rated in October 2011 and the program began accepting applications in January 2012.

#### **Who is responsible for operating Georgia's Quality Rated program?**

- Quality Rated is operated by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), the department of state government responsible for meeting the early education and child care needs of Georgia's children and families. Among other things, DECAL also administers the lottery funded Georgia's Pre-K Program and licenses/oversees the state's child care programs.
- To check out this great resource for you and your child, visit [www.qualityrated.org](http://www.qualityrated.org).