

# FOCUS Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System



Focus Criteria	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star*
<b>Ratios</b> Teacher/Student Ratios must be maintained at all times.	6 weeks—24 months <b>1:6</b> 2 years <b>1:10</b> 3 years <b>1:12</b> 4 years <b>1:12</b> 5+ years <b>1:15</b>	6 weeks—24 months <b>1:5</b> 2 years <b>1:8</b> 3 years <b>1:10</b> 4 years <b>1:10</b> 5+ years <b>1:12</b>	6 weeks—24 months <b>1:4</b> 2 years <b>1:6</b> 3 years <b>1:9</b> 4 years <b>1:10</b> 5+ years <b>1:10</b>
<b>Full Participation of Each Child</b>	Program must complete an annual self-assessment of how full participation is demonstrated in areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family Engagement</li> <li>Inclusive Practices for Children with Developmental Delays or Disabilities</li> <li>Culture and Language Including Support of Dual Language Learners (DLL)</li> </ul>		
<b>Health Promotion and Developmental Screening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within two months of enrollment, every child must have a well-child check on file; if not on file, document how resources are shared with families</li> <li>Within four months of enrollment, every child must have a completed developmental screening on file with results shared with families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within <b>six months</b> of enrollment, every child must have a completed dental, hearing and vision screening; if not on file, document how resources are shared with families</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional Qualifications and Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff must complete required trainings</li> <li>Complete a professional development plan for each staff member annually</li> <li>The director must have at least <b>one</b> course toward the New Mexico Child Development Certificate (CDA) or an ECECD Equivalency on file</li> <li>All educators must be presented with steps toward accessing higher education opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The director must have at least <b>two</b> courses toward the New Mexico Child Development Certificate <b>or</b> an ECECD Equivalency on file, <b>or</b> a completed CDA with a current certificate.</li> <li>At least <b>one</b> educator in every classroom must have successfully completed one course toward the New Mexico Child Development Certificate <b>or</b> an ECECD Equivalency on file, <b>or</b> a completed CDA with a current certificate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least one educator in every classroom must have successfully completed <b>two</b> courses toward the New Mexico Child Development Certificate <b>or</b> an ECECD Equivalency on file</li> <li>The director must have the New Mexico Child Development Certificate <b>or</b> an ECECD Equivalency on file, <b>or</b> a completed CDA with a current certificate.</li> </ul>

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<h3>Infant/Toddler and Preschool Classrooms</h3>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All classrooms must develop and post weekly lesson plans based on the New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines: Birth through Kindergarten</li> <li>Document how all classrooms are provided <b>two</b> hours of planning time a week</li> <li>Conduct family/teacher conferences</li> <li>Each child should have a portfolio that include <b>three</b> focused observations</li> </ul>	<p><b>3 Star Criteria Plus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each child should have a portfolio that includes <b>four</b> focused observations</li> </ul>	<p><b>4 Star Criteria Plus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each child should have a portfolio that includes <b>five</b> focused observations</li> </ul>
<h3>Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)</h3>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate the Guiding Principles for the full participation of Young Children in mission, philosophy, and curriculum statements</li> <li>Use an annual survey (family, staff, community etc.) and document how results are used for program planning</li> <li>Use a self-assessment tools for program planning</li> <li>Establish a team to review CQI plans</li> <li>Develop and implement CQI plans for the first <b>five</b> Essential Elements**</li> </ul>	<p><b>3 Star Criteria Plus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement CQI plans for the first <b>six</b> Essential Elements</li> <li>Use at least <b>two</b> self-assessment tools for program planning</li> </ul>	<p><b>4 Star Criteria Plus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement CQI plans for all <b>ten</b> Essential Elements</li> </ul>

\*ECECD accepts the following national accreditation bodies for 5 star criteria: Association of Christian Schools International (ASCI); Council on Accreditation (COA); International Christian Accrediting Association (ICAA); National Accreditation Commission (NAC); National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC); National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC); National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA).

\*\*Essential Elements of Quality: 1 Authentic Observation Documentation and Curriculum Planning; 2 Family Engagement; 3 Inclusive Practices for Children with Developmental Delays or Disabilities; 4 Culture and Language Including the Support of Dual Language Learners (DLL); 5 Promoting Social Relationships; 6 Health Promotion and Developmental Screenings; 7 Professional Qualifications: Site Directors/Education Coordinators, Educators; 8 Ratios and Group Size; 9 Environments; 10 Program Administration and Leadership.