

# Utah's Child Care Quality System

Phased in implementation beginning October 2019

**Utah is currently developing** a new Child Care Quality System (CCQS). This system will help parents make informed choices about the child care program their child attends so that the program will better prepare their child for kindergarten and life. This system will also ensure government child care subsidies are supporting quality programs.



## NEW FEDERAL REQUIREMENT FOR SUBSIDY RATES

The federal Child Care Development Fund law requires all states to consider the level of quality when establishing subsidy rates for child care providers. As a result, Utah must identify the quality of its child care programs and publish the results to the general public. This requirement supports information child care providers already know — children in high-quality child care programs that support their growth and development are better prepared for kindergarten and life.



## QUALITY RATINGS FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Participation is voluntary for child care programs not covered by state child care subsidies; however, all licensed programs will be eligible to receive a rating. All programs that care for children covered by child care subsidies will receive a rating. That rating will then be used to establish the subsidy rate for the child. Each participating provider will receive a rating based on points achieved in five areas that influence quality:

**Licensing | Quality Indicators | Education of Director and Staff  
Language, Literacy, Interactions | National Accreditation**

There are four levels of quality ratings that a provider could receive from the new Child Care Quality System. Providers that receive "High Quality" or "High Quality Plus" ratings will receive a higher subsidy payment.

Beginning October 2019, all provider ratings will be available to the public on the [Care About Childcare](#) website.



## HOW THIS HELPS CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

- **Higher Subsidy Rate:** Programs rated "High Quality" or "High Quality Plus" will receive a higher subsidy payment.
- **A Valuable Marketing Tool:** Receiving a high-quality ranking from the state is an impressive selling point for providers as they promote their business.
- **Funding Resources:** The Office of Child Care is reallocating funds to help providers achieve a higher rating.



## HOW THIS HELPS PARENTS

The Office of Child Care is committed to helping parents make informed choices on child care. Nationally, the quality of a child care program is important to parents who rely on child care while they are working. The new system is an important way to inform parents about the quality of child care programs, which will help them select a provider that meets their needs. In addition to quality, parents also consider the location, cost and personal recommendations when making their selection.



## PROVIDER FEEDBACK

The Office of Child Care values the expertise of the state's child care providers and appreciates the efforts they have made to provide safe and healthy settings for Utah's young children. The office received feedback from many providers while developing the new system in an effort to balance the needs of the children with a program's business needs. Feedback and recommendations will continue to be received through the CCQS subcommittee, the Office of Child Care Advisory Council and statewide public meetings.

A survey was also sent to all child care providers about the costs of managing a quality program. This feedback will help the Office of Child Care determine how to reallocate funds to support providers that want to achieve higher quality ratings.



**Questions? Contact the Office of Child Care  
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