

## What Are The Benefits of Being a Part of Iowa's Quality Rating System?

By participating in the QRS, a provider shows parents and the community that they are committed to providing quality child care – and are working towards improving the quality of care. In addition, achievement bonuses are available for participating providers.

Providers who participate in Iowa's Quality Rating System can receive on-site technical assistance as they go through the steps needed to improve their quality of care. They may also be eligible for grants or support through their Community Empowerment Area.

## Is There a List of Iowa's QRS- Rated Providers?

A list of Iowa's recognized providers can be found on the Department of Human Services' QRS website:

[www.dhs.state.ia.us/iqrs](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/iqrs)

## Why Does Iowa Need a QRS?

Iowa's Quality Rating System was established to:

- Raise the quality of child care in Iowa
- Increase the number of children in high-quality child care settings in the state
- Educate parents about quality in child care

The 2005 Iowa Legislature supported the creation of a *voluntary* quality rating system for child care providers. In doing so, the QRS is designed to:

- Make providers aware of the many paths and steps they can take to improve the quality of care provided to children.
- Offer parents another resource in evaluating and selecting a child care provider.
- Give local communities, businesses, organizations, and funders a 'menu' of activities, training, and support they can offer to providers right in their own communities.

## For more information

For more information on Iowa's QRS, call the QRS specialist in your CCR&R region, or visit the website at:

[www.dhs.state.ia.us/iqrs](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/iqrs)



## Iowa's Quality Rating System For Child Care Providers

Iowa Department of Human Services  
Child Care Unit  
Division of BDPS  
Hoover State Office Building  
1305 E. Walnut  
Des Moines, IA 50319

[www.dhs.state.ia.us/iqrs](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/iqrs)

*"Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy  
and successful."*

## What Is Iowa's Quality Rating System?

The Quality Rating System (QRS) is a *voluntary* program that offers providers a guided way to improve the quality of child care they provide.

## What Do the Levels Mean?

A provider who achieves Level 1 has met Iowa's registration or licensing standards. A provider who achieves Level 2 has received additional training and made the first steps toward improving quality. Providers in Levels 3-5 have made significant steps in meeting key indicators of quality in the areas of:

- professional development
- health and safety
- environment
- family and community partnership
- leadership and administration

## Who Can Participate?

- Registered child development homes
- Licensed child care centers, including preschools, Head Start, Early Head Start, and afterschool programs
- Child care programs that are operated by school districts

## How Do I Apply?

There is no application fee to participate in the QRS.

To receive an application packet, contact the QRS specialist in your Child Care Resource and Referral region.

### 1. Child Care Resource & Referral of NW Iowa

Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.  
418 S. Marion Street  
Remsen, IA 51050  
(712) 786-2001 or (800) 859-2025

### 2. Child Care Resource & Referral of NE Iowa

Exceptional Persons, Inc/CCR&R  
3675 University Ave  
Waterloo, IA 50701  
(319) 233-0804 or (800) 475-0804

### 3. Child Care Resource & Referral of Southwest and South Central Iowa

West Central Development Corporation  
701 10th Street, PO Box 709  
Harlan, IA 51537  
(712) 755-7381 or (800) 945-9778

### 4. Child Care Resource & Referral of Central Iowa

Orchard Place Child Guidance Center  
808 5th Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
(515) 246-3560 or (800) 722-7619

### 5. Child Care Resource & Referral of Southeast Iowa

Community Action of Eastern Iowa  
500 East 59th Street  
Davenport, IA 52807  
(563) 324-1302 or (800) 369-3778

## How is the Rating Determined?

A provider completes an application that states they have met specific criteria related to a QRS level.

The specific criteria a provider completes will depend on the QRS level desired. Criteria may include additional training, having a program evaluated by a trained observer, and completing program and staff improvement plans.

Once a provider has completed the steps to achieve a specific level, the application and documentation is submitted to the QRS regional specialist.

A certificate that indicates the QRS level achieved will be mailed to the provider to be displayed in the home or center. The rating is in effect for two years.

## How Can I Get Help in Improving My Quality of Care?

The QRS Regional Specialist can provide guidance and resources that are available in the community to assist a provider with improving the quality of care.