

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

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



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

*"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.