

What Is Quality Care?

High-quality child care centers and family child care homes are special; adults in the classroom talk to children in nurturing and encouraging ways, teachers focus on helping children develop social and emotional skills and self-regulation, the classroom is fun and joyful, children are active and staff are supported and seem happy. These high-quality programs put families at ease, giving them the confidence that their child is in capable and caring hands.

High Quality Programs Offer:

Small group size

Fun learning activities and lessons

Ongoing training for their teachers

Clean and warm classroom environments

Choosing Quality Checklist: Questions to Ask a Provider

- **How many adults do you have in the room for every child?**
Family child care homes should not have more than 7 preschool children attended to by one adult. Child care centers should not have more than 12 preschool children per adult.
- **How was your last visit from Community Care Licensing?**
Licensing makes sure that programs are following state health and safety guidelines.
- **What are your teacher's educational backgrounds?**
Ask to see if teachers have certifications in early childhood development or get ongoing training in early child care.
- **How do you measure children's progress and development?**
Student records should show regular observational notetaking and health screenings.
- **How can parents be involved in your program?**
High-quality programs engage parents through open communication and parent events.
- **How do teachers plan activities and lessons?**
Teachers who make plans and use books and other resources to prepare lessons ensure that children maximize their learning time in the classroom.
- **Are you participating in a quality rating and improvement system (or QRIS)?**
QRIS helps make sure programs are committed to providing quality care.

Why QUALITY MATTERS?

Children in high quality early learning programs:

- Are better prepared for kindergarten
- Get better grades in reading and in math
- Are more likely to graduate from high school
- Get higher paying jobs

To learn more about quality early learning and to find a program for your child, visit our website at:

qualitymattersccc.org



QUALITY MATTERS a **STRONG START** for kids trains and supports our local early educators and caregivers so that they have the tools to provide the highest quality early learning and care in Santa Clara County.





QUALITY MATTERS a STRONG START for kids

Santa Clara's
commitment
to kids,
community,
and quality.



Choosing a QUALITY
MATTERS program means a
brighter future for your child.