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.

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:

qualitymattersscc.org
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.