

## Child Care Quality System

Child care programs participating in the Child Care Quality System (CCQS) may earn a certified quality rating. Programs with a certified quality rating have had practices related to positive outcomes for children verified under the direction of the Department of Workforce Services (DWS), Office of Child Care (OCC). This process includes verification of the level of caregivers' and directors' trainings, the program's family engagement efforts, and many other evidence-based best practices. Additionally, licensed child care centers who receive a certified quality rating of High Quality or High Quality Plus will have completed an on-site observation. A guide to each certified quality rating is listed below.

**NOTE:** At this time family child care programs are not able to participate in CCQS. On June 1, 2021, all licensed family child care programs will be assigned a Default Foundation of Quality rating as applications open for participation in CCQS. Until June 1, 2021, searches filtered by "CCQS Quality Rating" will not display family child care programs.

When CCQS applications first open to licensed family child care programs, on-site observations will not be available, and participating programs will only receive ratings of Certified Foundation of Quality and Certified Building Quality. The Office of Child Care expects to begin conducting on-site observations in family child care programs in 2022.

### Certified Quality Rating Guide

**Foundation of Quality** is determined by the Utah Department of Health, Child Care Licensing Program and OCC by recognizing that a program is meeting all required licensing standards and that the program's staff have participated in trainings related to creating quality environments for attending children. These foundational standards of quality ensure that the children in the program are healthy and safe. All licensed center programs maintaining a license in good standing and receiving a baseline quality score are eligible to receive the "Foundation of Quality" rating.

**Building Quality** is issued to programs that are implementing practices leading to high quality, including participation in quality environment training, incorporating family engagement programming, and providing professional development to staff.

**High Quality** programs create an environment that not only focuses on the health and safety of the children in the program but also incorporates practice shown to support good outcomes for children, including positive interactions and trusting relationships between educators and children and ongoing professional development and coaching of staff.

**High Quality Plus** programs build on the important components of quality established at the High Quality rating but continually go beyond the required standards such as developing strong partnerships with families to support children's development, greater emphasis on early literacy skills and providing opportunities for educators to obtain greater levels of training and education.

### Additional Statutes

***Not Participating*** is a status that is given to programs that do not want, or are not eligible, to participate in the Child Care Quality System. Licensed centers who do not serve, or intend to serve, children whose care is covered by a Utah child care subsidy are given a *Not Participating* status.

***Default Foundation of Quality*** is assigned to licensed centers that serve children whose care is covered by a Utah child care subsidy payment and meet licensing safety requirements but do not apply for a quality rating or meet the minimum requirements for a certified quality rating. Beginning June 1, 2021, licensed family child care programs will also be assigned a *Default Foundation of Quality* rating.