



“Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives.”

-unknown



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QUALITY
COUNTS

NAPA COUNTY
*Promoting Excellence in
Early Care & Education*



What is a Quality
Improvement Rating
System (QIRS)?

Funded by First 5 Napa
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Education



California, along with 48 other states, is engaged in improving the quality of early education programs through statewide Quality Improvement and Rating Systems (QIRS).

A QIRS supports early care and education programs using consistent criteria, and provides ongoing support to help early care and education programs support and improve their quality. A QIRS creates a system to continually improve the overall quality of early care and education available, and can help families easily identify high-quality early care and education programs for their children.

Research shows that children learn best in stimulating environments with well-trained and well-educated teachers.

Because the early years are the most important time in a child's development, the higher the quality of early care and education children receive, the more children benefit.

What is Quality Counts?

Quality Counts, the QIRS program in Napa County, provides information, resources and support to early care and education programs, including family child care homes serving children 0-5—all at no cost to participants. Our goal is to enhance the quality of learning programs, as well as to recognize the wonderful work that is already being done in our region. Quality Counts addresses:

- Child development
- School readiness
- Social-emotional development
- Health, nutrition, and physical activity
- Early childhood environments
- Effective teacher-child interactions
- Professional development
- Program administration
- Family engagement

Who is Eligible to Participate?

- Private center-based programs
- Family child care
- Early Head Start/Head Start
- State-funded preschool part-day/full-day programs
- Alternative care sites (libraries, family resource centers, home visiting)

Why should my program participate in QIRS?

**BECAUSE
QUALITY COUNTS!**

ACCESS support and resources that will benefit you and your staff.

DISCOVER new ideas to enhance learning environments and experiences for young children.

PARTICIPATE in no-cost workshops and training.

JOIN a supportive network and share ideas.

RECEIVE materials and supplies for your program.

OBTAIN information to help market your program.

ACHIEVE recognition from families, peers, and community members for participating in Quality Counts.