

FOCUS Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System



FOCUS
On Young Children's Learning

Focus Criteria	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star*
Ratios Teacher/Student Ratios must be maintained at all times.	<p>6 weeks—24 months 1:6 2 years 1:10 3 years 1:12 4 years 1:12 5+ years 1:15</p>	<p>6 weeks—24 months 1:5 2 years 1:8 3 years 1:10 4 years 1:10 5+ years 1:12</p>	<p>6 weeks—24 months 1:4 2 years 1:6 3 years 1:9 4 years 1:10 5+ years 1:10</p>
Full Participation of Each Child	<p>Program must complete an annual self-assessment of how full participation is demonstrated in areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Engagement Inclusive Practices for Children with Developmental Delays or Disabilities Culture and Language Including Support of Dual Language Learners (DLL) 	 Same as 3 Star Criteria	 Same as 3 Star Criteria
Health Promotion and Developmental Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within two months of enrollment, every child must have a well-child check on file; if not on file, document how resources are shared with families Within four months of enrollment, every child must have a completed developmental screening on file with results shared with families 	 3 Star Criteria Plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within six months of enrollment, every child must have a completed dental, hearing and vision screening; if not on file, document how resources are shared with families 	 Same as 3 Star Criteria
Professional Qualifications and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff must complete required trainings Complete a professional development plan for each staff member annually The director must have at least one course toward the New Mexico Child Development Certificate (CDA) or an ECECD Equivalency on file All educators must be presented with steps toward accessing higher education opportunities 	 3 Star Criteria Plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The director must have at least two courses toward the New Mexico Child Development Certificate or an ECECD Equivalency on file, or a completed CDA with a current certificate. At least one educator in every classroom must have successfully completed one course toward the New Mexico Child Development Certificate or an ECECD Equivalency on file, or a completed CDA with a current certificate. 	 4 Star Criteria Plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one educator in every classroom must have successfully completed two courses toward the New Mexico Child Development Certificate or an ECECD Equivalency on file The director must have the New Mexico Child Development Certificate or an ECECD Equivalency on file, or a completed CDA with a current certificate.

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Focus Criteria

3 Star

Infant/Toddler and Preschool Classrooms

- All classrooms must develop and post weekly lesson plans based on the New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines: Birth through Kindergarten
- Document how all classrooms are provided **two** hours of planning time a week
- Conduct family/teacher conferences
- Each child should have a portfolio that include **three** focused observations

4 Star

3 Star Criteria Plus

- Each child should have a portfolio that includes **four** focused observations

5 Star*

4 Star Criteria Plus

- Each child should have a portfolio that includes **five** focused observations

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

- Incorporate the Guiding Principles for the full participation of Young Children in mission, philosophy, and curriculum statements
- Use an annual survey (family, staff, community etc.) and document how results are used for program planning
- Use a self-assessment tools for program planning
- Establish a team to review CQI plans
- Develop and implement CQI plans for the first **five** Essential Elements**

3 Star Criteria Plus

- Develop and implement CQI plans for the first **six** Essential Elements
- Use at least **two** self-assessment tools for program planning

4 Star Criteria Plus

- Develop and implement CQI plans for all **ten** Essential Elements

*ECECD accepts the following national accreditation bodies for 5 star criteria: American Montessori Internationale (AMI), American Montessori Society (AMS), Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), Council on Accreditation (COA), International Christian Accrediting Association (ICAA), National Accreditation Commission (NAC), National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC), National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA).

**Essential Elements of Quality: 1 Authentic Observation Documentation and Curriculum Planning; 2 Family Engagement; 3 Inclusive Practices for Children with Developmental Delays or Disabilities; 4 Culture and Language Including the Support of Dual Language Learners (DLL); 5 Promoting Social Relationships; 6 Health Promotion and Developmental Screenings; 7 Professional Qualifications: Site Directors/Education Coordinators, Educators; 8 Ratios and Group Size; 9 Environments; 10 Program Administration and Leadership.

ECECD recognizes Head Start programs as meeting 5-Star criteria through compliance with the Head Start Program Performance Standards.