

"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."



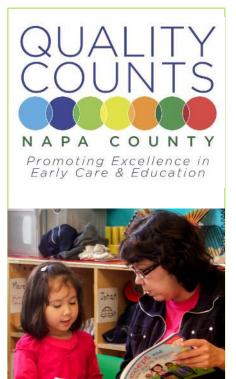
For more information, contact:

Community Resources for Children

Judy Nielsen 707-346-6981 JNielsen@crcnapa.org

Napa County Office of Education (CSPP funded programs)

Emily Darlington 707-259-5929 EDarlington@napacoe.org



What is a Quality Improvement Rating System (QIRS)?

Funded by First 5 Napa County, First 5 California and the California Department of 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.