



April 2017

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Quality Rated
@QualityRated

Are you wondering how #QualityRated works? Check out the graphic below to find out. Is your provider #QualityRated? #childcareingorgia

How Does It Work?
Experts assess whether the programs apply research-based best practices such as:

- Providing a safe, healthy and caring environment
- Promoting both active learning and social-emotional development
- Implementing individualized instruction
- Employing qualified and well-trained teachers
- Engaging families
- Preparing kids for kindergarten
- Providing a low teacher-student ratio
- Providing a safe, healthy and caring environment
- Like rating systems for restaurants and hotels, Quality Rated is easy for parents and families to understand and use.

Are you a Quality Rated provider on Facebook or Twitter? If so, we want to hear from you! We have been posting messages about Quality Rated on our social media pages to help Georgia families and communities understand Quality Rated and its purpose. We'd love for you to share these messages with your followers.

We also would like to share all of the great things you are doing as a Quality Rated provider. If you haven't already, add us as a friend and follow us on Facebook and Twitter by clicking on the links below to visit our pages.

Quick Links

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[Quality Rated Program Manual](#)

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Let's Get More Quality Rated Programs in Georgia!

Do you know any Georgia child care providers thinking about becoming Quality Rated?

All they have to do is visit qualityrated.decal.ga.gov, create an account and complete a brief application with demographic information about their program.

Once they have completed this information, they must submit their application for

By building a presence on social media, we hope that families will recognize Quality Rated as their independent, trustworthy resource to help them find high-quality child care from providers like you.

STAY CONNECTED  

Quality Rated: From the Review Desk



From the Review Desk: Lesson Plans

In reviewing portfolios we frequently see responses that reflect either misinformation, misconceptions or "myths" regarding the intent of specific standards. To support your quality improvement efforts and to help your program achieve the highest star - rating possible, we will, from time to time, seek to dispel myths that often result in earning less points, and therefore, a lower overall portfolio score.

One area of **Quality Rated (QR)** that continues to generate questions and confusion is what and how much information to include in Standard 4 about lesson plans.

Myth - Standard 4.2 - Lesson Plans and Accommodations for Every Child: Lesson plans must be uploaded for every classroom in my program.

In Truth - No; don't overthink this.

Quality Rated requires that one lesson plan be submitted for each age group served; this is different from one for every classroom. If you have more than one two year old classroom, you need only submit one lesson plan from one classroom as representative of this age group.

That settled, let's look at several items that could affect scoring in Standard 4.2.

- Lesson plans should reflect activities for a full instructional/school week, that is, for five consecutive days, Monday through Friday. Plans should not be submitted for weeks that are shortened by holidays or other school closures. No points can be earned if this criteria is not met.
- Each plan should be clearly identified by dates and age group(s). If two or more age groups will follow the same plan, be sure to list all age groups to which it

approval by checking the box at the bottom of the application.

We hope to see many more child care providers get started on the path to becoming **Quality Rated!**



Kids are
a mystery.
Finding quality
child care
doesn't have
to be.



Quality Rated Child Care is a tool that rates Georgia programs to help you make the choice that's right for you and your child—without the mystery.

Visit QualityRated.org
or Call 1-877-ALLGAKIDS
(1-877-255-4254)

applies as a part of the heading or top of the plan. Each plan must also indicate which day of the week each activity/teaching strategy will be implemented. Plans without this information will not meet the minimum criteria.

- To earn the minimum amount of points (2 points) for this indicator, evidence of adaptations to meet children's individual needs must be included in your plans. Some lesson plan templates include a designated space to enter the adaptations or accommodations you make for an individual child or children. On others you may have to enter this information where you judge as appropriate. Plans without this information will not meet the minimum criteria.
- To earn the maximum amount of points (in this case, 4), as a family provider or child care program, the plan(s) must do all of the above and indicate how your planned activities are aligned with the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards. This alignment can best be demonstrated by listing your activities and identifying and recording the corresponding developmentally appropriate practice(s) from the GELDS' codes. The GELDS' coding must include the domain, the standard, the age correlation and the indicator. For lesson plans identifying multiple age groups, each activity block must be appropriately coded. (Ex: PDM 6 would not meet the criteria as it does not contain the age or indicator. However, PDM 6.3b contains both the age and indicator.
- To earn the maximum amount of points as a Stand Alone School Age Care program, you must provide an Activity/lesson plan for each age group identified in your classroom definitions from Standard 1, for a five day week, and provide evidence of adaptations to meet individual children's needs (equipment, materials, communication tools, visual supports, individualized support, etc.)

Please feel free to call or email the **Quality Rated Help Desk** should you need assistance by calling 855-800-7747 or by sending an email to qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov.

Continuous Quality During the Summer



While summer can be a fun time for family vacations, going to the beach, field trips, and other activities, it is also an excellent opportunity to continue high-quality learning.

Quality interactions, establishing positive staff-child relationships, hands-on learning opportunities, and intentional teaching practices should all remain important during the summer months.

According to the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA), research shows us that all children experience learning loss when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer, and existing achievement gaps often widen further.

This summer, let's work on changing that. Let's focus on sustaining and continuing to expand on the quality improvements made during the Quality Rated process. Plan lessons that provide the children hands-on opportunities to continue learning and discovering during the summer months.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Start planning now how you can sustain quality. Consider and plan ahead for staffing, expectations for lesson plans, daily schedules, variety of hands-on learning activities, and outcomes you wish to achieve. Then, communicate these to your staff.
- Visit www.peach.decal.ga.gov to search through thousands of developmentally appropriate activities and create customized lesson plans for the summer.
- Gather resources you can share with parents on how to encourage learning at home during the summer months. Some of these include sharing how to get a library card, local summer reading programs, and math, science, and literacy game websites. Families can also download and print the [GELDS DIY Summer School calendars](#), which includes a GELDS activity for each day of the summer.
- You can learn more about summer learning loss at www.summerlearning.org

Choosing not to compromise quality during the summer is choosing to educate, liberate and advocate for the children in your care. It does make a difference, and Georgia's children are worth it. So let the learning continue!

**Congratulations to the following
Quality Rated Child Care Programs**

Congratulations to the newest  QUALITY RATED™ child care programs!

White Oak Learning Academy #1, Forsyth ★★ Tender Years Learning Center #5, Bibb
 Preferred School Care at Parkside Elementary, Fulton ★★ Guiding Light Child Care Center, Treutlen
 Preferred School Care at L.O. Kimberly Elementary, ★ Cherrie D. Beasley, Fulton
 Fulton ★★ Sabrina R. Daniels, Fulton
 Little Stars Learning Academy, Fulton ★★ Decatur Adventist Learning Center, DeKalb
 Dilsia Torres, Chatham ★★ The Goddard School, Cherokee
 Dunwoody Academy & Infants of Dunwoody, DeKalb ★★ Kids Ahoy, Houston
 Tender Years Learning Center #2, Houston ★★ Kiddie Academy, Peach
 Rebecca P. Mac Pherson, Effingham ★★ Agape Way Daycare, Peach
 Donna's Loving Care Child Care and Learning Center, DeKalb ★★ Brown's Child Care Learning Center, Bibb
 ★★ Dublin Head Start, Laurens
 Kidz of Paradise, Clayton ★★ Bright Beginnings Learning Academy, DeKalb
 Tender Years Learning Center #1, Houston ★★ Sandra G. Satterwhite, DeKalb
 Carter's Day Care Academy, DeKalb ★★ The Sunshine House #76, Gwinnett
 Romper Room Playschool, Dougherty ★★ Kimberly D. Byrd, Fulton
 Kids 'R' Kids #12, Gwinnett ★★ Lynette R. Raji, DeKalb
 Mommy Angels Daycare, DeKalb ★★ Kids 'R' Kids #15, Gwinnett
 Aysha Khan, Fulton ★★ Sylvan Hills Preschool Academy, Fulton
 Tender Years Learning Center #12, Lowndes ★★

** Congratulations to all of our
 QUALITY RATED™ child care programs
 who've increased their star rating
 in March!**

★★ **Brighter Tomorrows Child Development Center, Gordon (1 to 2 star)**
 ★★ **Tickle Me Pink Daycare and Learning Center, Lowndes (1 to 2 star)**
 ★★★ **Childcare Network #89, Lowndes (2 to 3 star)**
 ★★★ **Mother's Love Too, Tift (2 to 3 star)**
 ★★★ **Dayna C. Cross, Fulton (2 to 3 star)**

*Visit qualityrated.org to find
 Quality Rated child care programs in your area!*

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Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive,
 Suite 670, East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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