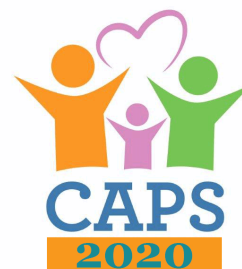




August 2017

Quality Rated Recruiting Host Sites for Assessor Training

*** NEW ***
CAPS 2020



Quality Rated is recruiting child care programs to serve as host sites for Quality Rated non-live, no risk observations. The observations will be used for assessor training purposes.

Why is it needed?

As part of the strenuous reliability process Quality Rated Assessors undergo to ensure highly accurate scoring and consistency within the entire QR team, non-live training and reliability observations are conducted with all Assessors periodically each year. Volunteer host sites are needed in order to have more classrooms available to conduct these training observations.

Who can host?

Quality Rated needs programs of all types located throughout Georgia that are willing to partner with us to host these observations. Family child care providers, centers, and after school programs in rural and metro areas are needed.

Why would I want to be a host site?

The observations are at no risk to the host program and in no way impact current or future Quality Ratings. All observations are announced and coordinated with the program administration for scheduling, and the host site can choose classrooms observed based on the needs of the observation. Benefits for host programs include:

In December 2016, the DECAL Advisory Committee adopted the following: Quality Rated eligible providers must be star rated by 12/31/2020 in order to continue to receive Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) funding.

*** NEW ***
Quality Rated
Program Manual

We're happy to share that there's an updated version of the Quality Rated Program Manual. The new program manual, which is version 2.7, features the most current and up to date policy items affecting Quality Rated. You can find the updated program manual at the bottom of the qualityrated.decal.ga.gov

- Teachers get more practice being observed, which can help alleviate fears prior to a live observation occurring.
- Each classroom observed gets a one page summary of general feedback from the observation, which notes which items and important concepts were observed to be strengths and which need to remain as focus areas. When used in conjunction with the ERS scale, this feedback is valuable in guiding remaining focus areas for improvement prior to a live observation and/or providing a snapshot of whether teachers are maintaining ERS requirements in a quality rated program.
- Since programs get to choose the classrooms observed, Administrators can direct the observations to occur in classrooms that could most benefit from feedback.

How long would I be a volunteer host site?

Ideally, host programs would volunteer on an on-going basis of at least one year, but host sites may ask to be removed from the volunteer list at any time without repercussion. Most host sites, depending on location, could expect to be contacted several times during the year to request observations be conducted at their facility.

How do I sign up to volunteer?

If you are interested in serving as a host site, please contact the Quality Rated Help Desk by phone at **1.855.800.7747** or by email at QualityRated@dec.al.gov.

Please include your program name, licensing number, current number and ages of classrooms (i.e. 3 infant classes), address, and your preferred designated contact person's email and phone number.

We value and welcome your participation. Working together, we can ensure, strengthen, and diversify quality assurances for Quality Rated, which benefits everyone.

GaDOE and DECAL Launch Parent Resource Website for the GKIDS Readiness Check



The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) in partnership with the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has launched GKIDSReadinessCheck.gadoe.org, a parent resource website for the GKIDS Readiness Check. The new website was launched in an effort to help both schools and families with the transition to kindergarten.

The GKIDSReadinessCheck.gadoe.org, or (a shorter version) KReady.gadoe.org, will serve as a resource for parents to learn more about kindergarten readiness, the skills

website or by clicking the link below.

Quality Rated 2.7 Program Manual

Survey on Early Childhood Data Use

Applied Engineering Management Corporation (AEM), a provider of early learning support services, is developing a tool to help teachers understand more about using data to plan for instruction and individualization. As a part of their research, they are collecting information from teachers, coaches, and education directors/managers about their current use of data for planning and instruction. To collect this information, they are asking for interested participants to take a quick 5 minute survey by **August 30, 2017**. You can take the survey by clicking the link below.

AEM Survey

Quick Links

Quality Rated Website

Quality Rated Program Manual

DECAL KOALA

Environment Rating Scales Institute

Quality Rated Facebook

Quality Rated Twitter

Quality Rated Instagram

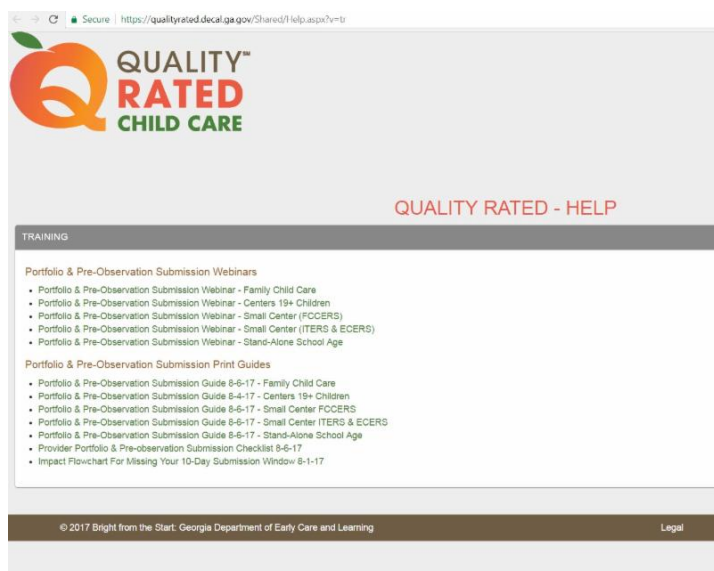
Quality Rated YouTube

assessed on the GKIDS Readiness Check, and activities to help support their child's development at home. The site includes Spanish translation and closed captioning.

Please share this site with your students' families at upcoming events, such as meet and greet, open house, curriculum night, and parent conferences, as well as on your system/school webpage.

[Click here](#) for color and black & white flyers about the parent resource site, in English and Spanish, which can be printed and distributed or posted to a webpage.

Webinars Demonstrating Quality Rated Submission Process Now Available



Portfolio & Pre-Observation Submission Webinars and Training Guides

If you are getting close to submitting your Quality Rated portfolio and requesting your onsite ERS observation, you may want to check out our new Portfolio & Pre-Observation Submission Webinars and Training Guides.

The webinars went live on August 8 and are now available for anyone who may need step-by-step guides to ensure a smooth and easy portfolio submission.

You can find all the webinars and training guides under the Training Link on the bottom of any Quality Rated Screen. To check out this new resource, click the link below.

<https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/Shared/Help.aspx?v=tr>

From the Review Desk: "Policy, Practice and Your Portfolio"



To support your quality improvement efforts and to help your program achieve the highest star rating possible, we will, from time to time, offer helpful tips. We will further clarify or provide additional information on the five standards, that may help you in forming your responses, or in selecting the evidence you will upload.

Policy, Practice, and Your Portfolio

There are several Quality Rated Standards that require you to submit evidence of policies or practices operational in your program. This evidence is what tells us how your program lives up to the standard. To better understand how policy and practice go hand- in- hand, we'll take a closer look at how you can demonstrate this in your portfolio.

Policy

By definition, policy is defined as a written set of rules or guidelines that determine a course of action. Here are a few reasons why we have policies in an early care and education program. They are as follows:

- Policies are a way of reflecting what you value, your mission and vision, or what you have determined to be your best and highest principles.
- Policies guide how you intend to ensure that children in your program are well cared for and supported in their learning and development.
- Policies guide your most important decisions, such as what curriculum you will use, or whether your program will serve a diverse group of children with different abilities, cultures and languages.
- Policies communicate these messages to families, staff, your regulatory agency, peer groups, accrediting bodies, and to your community.

Practice

When it comes to practices, it's defined as an act or behavior performed often, customarily, habitually, or repeatedly. Practices, in other words, are things we do or engage in routinely, on a regular - everyday basis. For example, staff and children wash their hands each time they come in from outdoor play; this is a routine health/safety practice. Practices are those things you decide to do in your program that may be based on:

- What the research tells us
- Industry standards (some long standing and some that change based on new information)

- State regulations
- Your experience as a caregiver (what you've learned over the years)
- Your policy positions (what you've decided you'll do in your program)

As we've now clearly determined how policies and practices work when it comes to a programs' operations, we'll now look at a few of the standards to demonstrate how policy and practice can work together in your portfolio.

Standard 2.3 Written Health Information

*Note: Although **Standard 2.3.1**, which includes written materials about the importance on immunization, oral hygiene, hearing and vision screenings for families, is not the focus here, **it has to be met first, or before, you can earn any points for 2.3.2 or 2.3.3.**

As a provider, with constant contact with parents, you have a great opportunity to help them understand the importance of early, and regular health checks for their children.

If you do not have these types of written materials already, information on immunizations, oral hygiene, and vision and hearing screenings are available on the Quality Rated website under Resources. Visit the website and use these materials to help you meet 2.3.1.

Now let's look at the policy and practice requirements in Standard 2.

2.3.2 - Policy: To meet the criteria for 2.3.2, you are asked to demonstrate that you have a written policy to encourage families to submit vision, hearing, nutrition, and dental screenings for all four - year olds within 90 days of enrollment.

One way to meet this criteria is to include in your parent handbook, program or policy manual, a section that clearly states and lays out what the health screening requirements are for your program. You should include each of the screenings listed in the standard when writing your policy, the age of children on which they are required, and when they must be submitted.

While you may have many, many appropriate health policies, this standard is asking for very specific information. Do not submit information unrelated to the evidence asked for.

Simply submitting your entire handbook is not helpful; you want to be sure you highlight the evidence, only the highlighted section(s) will be reviewed. It is acceptable, however, if you write new policy, to submit it as a separate document if you have not yet had an opportunity to add it into your handbook.

2.3.3 - Practices: To meet this criteria you are asked to describe how developmental monitoring is conducted in your program. For example, What tool do you use (the name of the tool)? How are parents involved? Do you obtain parent permission in writing? Do parents complete developmental monitoring questionnaires or checklists? When do you conduct developmental monitoring in your program? How and

when are the results shared with families? How are referrals made when indicated?

Each of these questions must be answered in the form of a policy on the use of developmental monitoring that it is in your handbook, or through a written description of the practices (what you do, what steps you take) to meet each of the requirements.

Simply uploading a copy of the tool you use is not adequate and although a checklist may have a place for a parent to sign, this does not tell us if parents are asked for their permission. All of the criteria for 2.3.3 must be met in order to earn the maximum of six points for the entire standard.

For guidance or coaching in developing and writing policies, your technical assistance provider and regional Inclusion Specialist (for developmental screening help), are excellent resources.

Please feel free to call or email the Help Desk should you need assistance at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov.

Congratulations to the following Quality Rated Child Care Programs

Congratulations to the newest  QUALITY RATED child care programs!

Prime Time - Wilson Creek, Duluth ★★★★★	★★★★★ Watch Me Grow Learning Center II, Forest Park
Prime Time - Ocee, Alpharetta ★★★★★	★★★★★ Honey Bear Day Care, Mableton
Preferred School Care at Benteen Elementary, Atlanta ★★	★★★★★ Watch Me Grow Learning Center, Inc., Atlanta
★★★★★ E.E. Butler Head Start/Pre-K, Gainesville	
Child Development Center, Columbus ★★	★★★★★ Teresa D. Smith, Lithonia
1 Love Childcare & Learning Center, Sylvania ★	★ Discovery Point #67, Cumming
Sharon D. Denison, St. Marys ★★	★ Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Center, Atlanta
Prime Time - River Eves Elementary School, Roswell ★★	★★★★★ Clay County Head Start, Fort Gaines
Katrina L. Wilson, Albany ★★★★★	★★★★★ Jacqueline D. Collister, Lawrenceville
Norcross Human Services Cluster, Norcross ★★★★★	★ The Goddard School, Smyrna
Marsha T. Dennis, Stone Mountain ★★★★★	★ Westside Child Development Center, Atlanta
Legacy Academy for Children, Alpharetta ★★	★★★★★ Just Kiddin Daycare & Learning Center, Leesburg
Odum Learning Academy Inc., Savannah ★	★★★★★ Vanessa Porter, Grovetown
Wee Care Academy Preschool & Development Center, Austell ★	★★★★★ R. Kirk Landon Learning Center, Atlanta
★★★★★ Atlanta Children's Shelter Inc., Atlanta	
Childcare Network #267, Hampton ★	★★★★★ All About Kids Early Learning Center, Douglas
	★ Marsha T. Octave, Hinesville

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

- ★★★ **Train Up A Child Academy, Garden City (1 to 3 stars)**
- ★★★ **Clay De'Angela, Mableton (2 to 3 stars)**
- ★★★ **Scottdale Early Learning Inc., Scottdale (2 to 3 stars)**
- ★★ **Kids 'R' Kids #36, Lawrenceville (1 to 2 stars)**
- ★★★ **Sheltering Arms - Longview Drive Center, Douglasville (2 to 3 stars)**
- ★★★ **Child's World Comprehensive Learning Center Inc., Warrenton (2 to 3 stars)**
- ★★★ **Frances Villarreal, Jonesboro (1 to 3 stars)**
- ★★★ **The Right Start Early Learning Center II, Palmetto (2 to 3 stars)**

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

Forward this email

STAY CONNECTED



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

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