



State of Louisiana
Department of Social Services
Office of Family Support

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GOVERNOR

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ANN SILVERBERG WILLIAMSON
SECRETARY

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Dear Licensed Child Care Provider,

The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education announces that Louisiana's Quality Start Child Care Rating System is ready to receive applications. We have worked with many of you during the design phase of the system and in the Foundations Up program. Based on our many months of work together, Louisiana will now join the approximately 15 other states that offer a statewide quality rating system to their child care providers, early childhood professionals, children, and families.

The Quality Start Child Care Rating System will provide you with the ability to communicate your quality to the families seeking child care for their children. While being recognized for your hard work and commitment to the children, participation in the Quality Start Child Care Rating System will also provide a benchmark for continuing program improvement.

Participation in the Quality Start Child Care Rating System comes with special incentives and opportunities. If your center serves children who receive child care assistance or are in the state's foster care program, you will receive increased state subsidies once your program is awarded 2 or more stars. In addition, as a participating center, you, your staff and parents may qualify for the School Readiness Tax Credits, as can businesses or employers that support your center. Also, by participating in the voluntary Quality Start Child Care Rating System you may qualify to be part of the Louisiana Mental Health Consultation Program to child care centers, a resource to support directors and child care staff in developing and sustaining classroom environments that promote optimal social-emotional development for your children.

The pages that follow provide the application and instructions for participating in the Quality Start Child Care Rating System. I hope you will carefully consider participation by reading the attached information and/or visiting the website at www.qrslouisiana.com.

It is a critical time for child care in Louisiana, and I hope that you will join us in this exciting new effort. The Quality Start Child Care Rating System offers our families and their children access to recognized quality child care and a chance for you to be recognized for the vital work you do. Please choose to be part of the Quality Start Child Care Rating System, and take advantage of all the opportunities it offers.

If you have any questions or need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us. I look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely yours,

Sherry Guarisco
Executive Director
Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education

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