

The Importance of Quality Care

Parents and caregivers all want the same thing for their children—to be cared for in a safe and nurturing environment. That’s why First Things First partners with child care providers to further improve their early learning programs through Quality First.



Quality First Supports Arizona’s Child Care Providers, So They Can Support Young Children

Quality First works with early childhood educators to build on the strengths of their early learning program. That means going above and beyond state licensing requirements to improve the quality of care children receive.



Why Quality Matters

Quality improvement in child care involves ongoing efforts to enhance learning, well-being and safety through continuous assessment, refinement and best practices.



What is Quality Improvement?

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How Programs are Measured

Programs are observed and rated from 1-5 stars based on research-proven quality components of teacher-child interactions and learning environments.

Key components of high-quality child care:

- ✓ Skilled teachers who know how to turn everyday experiences into learning moments
- ✓ Interactions and conversations that build language, thinking and social skills
- ✓ Environments that spark children’s curiosity with a variety of learning activities, books and hands-on materials
- ✓ Health and safety practices that support children’s healthy development
- ✓ Opportunities for active play and exploration throughout the day

Quality First participants are actively working on their quality improvement with support and resources provided by First Things First. No matter their star rating, they are committed to making improvements that help prepare kids for school and life.

Learn more at FirstThingsFirst.org/Quality-First

