

**Nevada Silver State Stars
Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS)
For Family Child Care and Group Home Care Facilities**



What is a QRIS for Family Child Care?

- A QRIS outlines the components of “quality child care” by utilizing standardized, research based criteria.
- A QRIS provides a roadmap and support to improve the quality of early childhood programs.
- It creates stronger learning environments which lead to improved child outcomes.
- Through the QRIS, early childhood programs are assessed and given a number of “stars” to indicate what level of quality has been reached.
- QRIS standards include quality indicators that expand on licensing requirements in the areas of: Professional & Business Practices, Developmental Learning Activities, Safety & Health, and Relationships & Environment.

Advantages of QRIS

- Recognizes a program’s strengths while helping them develop a plan for improvement.
- Provides access to resources (technical assistance, coaching, training, and financial incentives) that help early childhood programs improve and sustain higher quality.
- Informs parents regarding child care choices and become better consumers.
- Brings community awareness to the critical role that the early years play in preparing children for school and for life.

NEVADA SILVER STATE STARS QRIS REQUIRED CRITERIA

★	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program has current child care license <p><i>Silver State Stars QRIS is a voluntary program open to all child care programs in Nevada.</i></p> <p><i>One Star programs have signed up for the QRIS coaching program. They are working on making program-wide improvements to their policies, procedures, environments, and staff professional development. By participating, programs are demonstrating a commitment to improving quality.</i></p> <p><i>It should be understood advancing from Star Level 1 to subsequent levels is an accomplishment that takes a significant amount of time and effort.</i></p> <p><i>Programs not indicated with a star level have chosen not to participate in the QRIS.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program has current child care license Program is currently registered with the Child Care Subsidy Program Owner/Operator has a written Nevada Registry professional development plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program has current child care license Program is currently registered with the Child Care Subsidy Program Owner/Operator and all teaching staff members have written Nevada Registry professional development plans Program has a minimum average ERS score of 3.50-3.99 Owner/Operator has a minimum placement on the career ladder of 2.2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program has current child care license Program is currently registered with the Child Care Subsidy Program. Owner/Operator and all teaching staff members have written Nevada Registry professional development plans Program has a minimum average ERS score of 4.00-4.49 Owner/Operator has a minimum placement on the career ladder of 3.2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program has current child care license Program is currently registered with the Child Care Subsidy Program Owner/Operator and all teaching staff members have written Nevada Registry professional development plans Program has a minimum average ERS score of 4.50-5.00, Owner/Operator has a minimum placement on the career ladder of 4.2
	<p>Programs must meet a minimum of four (4) Quality Indicators from each of the four categories listed below on pages 5-9.</p>	<p>Programs must meet a minimum of eight (8) Quality Indicators from each of the four categories listed below on pages 5-9.</p>	<p>Providers must meet a minimum of twelve (12) Quality Indicators from each of the four categories listed below on pages 5-9.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * NAFCC Accredited FCC * Head Start Grantees <p><i>(Note: Accredited programs and Head Starts must meet required criteria, but do not have to provide additional documentation for the Quality Indicators listed below.)</i></p>

QUALITY INDICATORS

There are four categories of quality indicators:

1. Professional & Business Practices
2. Developmental Learning Activities
3. Safety & Health
4. Relationships & Environment

ENVIRONMENT RATING SCALES (ERS)

Each Family Child Care Home will be assessed using the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale, Revised Edition (FCCERS-R).

Note: *Subscale 7- Parents and Providers* will not be used as part of the assessment for this project.

Nevada SILVER STATE STARS QRIS RATING

A program's star rating will be based meeting the required criteria, their ERS score, and the number of quality indicators met.

1. Professional & Business Practices

<input type="checkbox"/> Program has a written physical activity statement that follows state Content Standards in their parent handbook	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has a written confidentiality policy.	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has professional development days added into contract with families.	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has a work separate environment, a place that is an administrative area for planning, separate from children's areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Program/ participates in a listserv or association that allows them regular policy and licensing updates
<input type="checkbox"/> If program has additional staff, there is an employee handbook with a signature page.	<input type="checkbox"/> If program has additional staff, home reimburses professional development expenses incurred by staff	<input type="checkbox"/> If program has additional staff, monthly meetings are held.	<input type="checkbox"/> If program has additional staff, home has a documented procedure to receive staff feedback on program quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Staff feedback on program quality is used to develop a written plan for program improvement
<input type="checkbox"/> If program has additional staff, the Owner/ Operator provides teaching staff with an annual written performance evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has weekly or monthly curriculum planning calendars	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has written lesson plans for teacher-directed activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has written lesson plans for teacher-directed activities that include adaptations for children with special needs	<input type="checkbox"/> Preschool lesson plans align with Nevada Pre-k Standards.
<input type="checkbox"/> On-going child assessment includes at least one informal method such as observations, portfolios, or teachers' anecdotal records	<input type="checkbox"/> On-going child assessment includes at least one formal method such as checklists, screening tools, or assessment tools	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has a documentation system in place to support collaboration with specialist working with identified children	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has a written statement on the inclusion of children with special needs	<input type="checkbox"/> Program obtains (with parental consent) an IFSP/IEP for each child enrolled with a diagnosed disability
<input type="checkbox"/> Program collaborates with outside agency and family before administrative withdrawal of any child with medical/behavioral issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has a written policy for procedures on reporting child abuse & neglect included in their parent handbook	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has a written health statement included in their parent handbook	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has a written physical activity statement in their parent handbook	

2. Developmental Learning Activities

<input type="checkbox"/> When multiple staff are present minimum placement on the career ladder is 2.1 for staff	<input type="checkbox"/> When multiple staff are present, all teaching staff have two clock hours on the topic related to "cultural competencies" received in the past two years	<input type="checkbox"/> When multiple staff are present all teaching staff have two clock hours on the topic "Environment Rating Scales" received in the past two year	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner/Operator is a member of a network or listserv that provides regular updates on professional development opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner/Operator is a current member of a national early childhood professional organization.
<input type="checkbox"/> When multiple staff are present, all teaching staff are current members of a national early childhood professional organization	<input type="checkbox"/> All teaching staff have two clock hours on the topic "inclusion" received in the past two years	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner/Operator provides teaching staff with annual written feedback based on observations of teacher's performance	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner/Operator has a minimum of 3 credits in management or business related courses	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner/Operator participates on an early childhood committee.
<input type="checkbox"/> Owner/Operator has two clock hours on the topic related to "cultural competencies" received in the past two years	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has a documented action plan based on their ERS scores.	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner/Operator has taken Business Administration Scale (BAS) training	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has a documented improvement plan based on the BAS score	<input type="checkbox"/> Program is a T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Nevada site.
<input type="checkbox"/> Owner/Operator receives a minimum of five additional hours of annual training above licensing requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner/Operator has two clock hours on the topic "early childhood mental health" received in the past two years.	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner/Operator has two clock hours on the topic "inclusion" received in the past two years	<input type="checkbox"/> Program uses information about children's interests and needs to set goals that support children's development	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner/ Operator provides learning activities for parents to do at home based on their child's formal assessment.
<input type="checkbox"/> Owner/Operator has completed two clock hours of "Infant and Toddler" specific training in the past two years.	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner / Operator coordinates with other providers in the community to share resources, services and professional development opportunities.	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner/Operator has two clock hours on the topic "Environment Rating Scales" received in the past two years.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Safety & Health

<input type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety Assessment is completed by a child care health consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Record Review is completed by a child care health consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> Program is a registered Web IZ provider	<input type="checkbox"/> Menus are evaluated by a nutritionist	<input type="checkbox"/> Program is a Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) sponsored site
<input type="checkbox"/> Program supports breastfeeding by offering a designated location	<input type="checkbox"/> All rooms used by children have a cleaning and sanitation schedule posted	<input type="checkbox"/> Staff plan and implement daily developmental appropriate physical activities for all children	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has a documented improvement plan based on a nutrition and physical activity self-assessment checklist	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has comprehensive plan for children on walks, field trips or when transported. The plan addresses all safety issues and assures that children do not become separated from the group.
<input type="checkbox"/> Program has individualized health plans for children with medical concerns	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has an emergency preparedness kit	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner/ Operator and any staff have advanced training for emergency medical response to threatening incidents.	<input type="checkbox"/> If parents bring food they are labeled with child's name and date and if mother's milk is used.	<input type="checkbox"/> The ASQ:SE is used to screen children's social-emotional development
<input type="checkbox"/> Written referrals to the appropriate agency are made for children in need of developmental services.	<input type="checkbox"/> Written referrals to the appropriate agency are made for children in need of behavioral or mental health services.	<input type="checkbox"/> Program utilizes a health and safety checklist for all children both indoors and outdoors daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has a documented improvement plan based on the Inventory of Practices for Promoting Social Emotional Competence	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Relationships & Environment

<input type="checkbox"/> Families are encouraged to tour home before enrolling child	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled at least semi-annually	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled on an as needed basis	<input type="checkbox"/> A written procedure is in place to help families transition children to other programs, or school	<input type="checkbox"/> Staff is available to attend IEP/IFSP meetings with family and service providers
<input type="checkbox"/> Program has a documented procedure to receive family feedback on program quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Families' feedback is used to develop a written plan for program improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has a written plan for family involvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Program offers quarterly family involvement activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Program provides information about classes or training opportunities for parents at least quarterly
<input type="checkbox"/> Program offers an annual class or training opportunity, on topics other than health, physical activity or nutrition, provided by a qualified professional for parents	<input type="checkbox"/> Program plans occasional activities where the child care families can get together.	<input type="checkbox"/> Program collaborates with a community agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Materials from community agencies are available for families at the program	<input type="checkbox"/> Breastfeeding materials and information are available for families at the program
<input type="checkbox"/> Program encourages parents to visit any time their children are present.	<input type="checkbox"/> Program provides families daily information reports about each child's activities.	<input type="checkbox"/> Program distributes a quarterly newsletter to families	<input type="checkbox"/> Program compiles and provides written program information for families in their home language	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has a communication form families can use to communicate with Owner/ Operator.
<input type="checkbox"/> Program offers annual class or training opportunity focused on health, physical activity, or nutrition, provided by a qualified professional for parents	<input type="checkbox"/> Program seeks information about each family's cultural traditions and uses this information in responding to the children and planning activities.	<input type="checkbox"/> Program seeks information from families to help create developmental plans in regards to showing positive attitudes and inclusion with bottle weaning, diapering, toilet learning, discipline and special needs of children.	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has written policies given to parents before children start care. Policies may include but are not limited to: substitute care arrangement, persons authorized to pick up child, illness, medication administration, allergies, emergencies, guidance and discipline, developmentally appropriate learning activities, use of screen media, parent participation, transportation/field trip, etc.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Provider is available to parents by telephone when children are present, or regularly checks for phone messages.	<input type="checkbox"/> Program offers a variety of ways for parents to participate in the program's activities. Although participation is encouraged, it is never required.	<input type="checkbox"/> Program has written policy to communicate to parents that guns, other weapons or material that is violent, sexually explicit, stereotype, or otherwise inappropriate for children should not be brought into the program from home.		

MANDATORY for all programs interested in applying for a star rating:

The Family Child Care Owner/Operator must attend an initial *Introduction to Nevada's Silver State Stars QRIS* training.

Please visit the Nevada Registry website for training dates and locations www.nevadaregistry.org

There are two options for participating in the Silver State Stars QRIS. After you have attended the introductory training, please select the option that best fits your center:

Option 1: Fast Track (no coaching or grant funds needed)

Option 2: Traditional Track (includes coaching and grant for classroom materials, see page 9)

Fast Track Step 1:

Owner /Operator completes Intent to Apply form and submits with a copy of the program's child care license to the Office of Early Learning and Development.

Fast Track Step 2:

Owner /Operator will receive an e-mail with instructions to set-up a user name and password for their online portfolio.

Fast Track Step 3:

Owner/Operator provides and uploads documentation (texts, photos, files) for online program portfolio.

Program receives technical assistance from QRIS Coach on procedures, by phone or e-mail, if needed.

Fast Track Step 4:

Owner / Operator completes a QRIS Application and submits with online program portfolio to the Office of Early Learning and Development.

A QRIS Assessor contacts program administrator to schedule the Environment Rating Scale (ERS) Assessment.

If a *No* is given to any documentation submitted in the portfolio, program administrator will be given two weeks to submit corrected documentation.

Fast Track Step 5:

A rating is assigned and the center is notified by mail. A star rating is valid for eighteen months.

Owner/Operator has 30 calendar days to notify the Office of Early Learning and Development in writing to provide detailed justification (including reference to a specific indicator or score) if he or she has an objection or disagrees with rating.

Traditional Track Step 1:

Program administrator completes Coaching Request form and submits with a copy of the program's child care license to the Children's Cabinet.

Traditional Track Step 2:

A QRIS Assessor contacts program administrator to schedule a pre-ERS assessment.

Traditional Track Step 3:

A QRIS Coach is assigned to the program.

Traditional Track Step 4:

Program administrator signs a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Children's Cabinet.

Program administrator and QRIS coach develop a quality improvement plan based on the scores of the pre-ERS assessment. Coaches are available 8-12 hours per month, per center. Programs may receive assistance for a maximum of 18 months, awarded in six month increments. After each six months, centers will be assessed on their progress made.

Traditional Track Step 5:

Owner/Operator will receive an e-mail with instructions to set-up a user name and password for their online portfolio.

Traditional Track Step 6:

Owner/Operator may apply for a program improvement grant. The amount of the grant is based on the licensing capacity of the program. Grant funds are for classroom materials only, must align with the pre-ERS assessment results, and be pre-approved by the QRIS coach.

Traditional Track Step 7:

Owner/Operator completes an application and submits with online program portfolio to the Office of Early Care and Education.

A QRIS Assessor contacts program administrator to schedule the Environment Rating Scale (ERS) Assessment.

If a *No* is given to any documentation submitted in the portfolio, program administrator will be given two weeks to submit corrected documentation.

Traditional Track Step 8:

A rating is assigned and the center is notified by mail. A star rating is valid for eighteen months.

Owner/Operator has 30 calendar days to notify the Office of Early Care and Education in writing to provide detailed justification (including reference to a specific indicator or score) if he or she has an objection or disagrees with rating.

INCENTIVES FOR PARTICIPATION

	1	2	3	4	5
Coaching →	Children's Cabinet	Children's Cabinet	Children's Cabinet	Accreditation Facilitation Project	Accreditation Facilitation Project
One-time Initial Grant →	Children's Cabinet \$1500 with at least a 5 month commitment	Children's Cabinet \$1500 with at least a 5 month commitment	Children's Cabinet \$1500 with at least a 5 month commitment	Office of Early Learning and Development \$1500	Office of Early Learning and Development \$1500
Advancement Bonus at Renewal →			\$150	\$200	\$250
Tiered Reimbursement →			6%	9%	12%

Please direct any questions, comments, and/or concerns to:

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