

## QUALITY MATTERS MONTEREY COUNTY FACT SHEET: Information for Early Care and Education Programs

**Thank you for your  
interest in Quality Matters  
Monterey County!**

We hope you find this fact sheet  
helpful in your decision to  
participate in Quality Matters.

As you know, children's brains grow at amazing speeds. From birth to age five, children grow and learn more than at any other time, and early care and education programs like yours play a critical role in supporting early learning.

The quality of children's earliest experiences, environments, and relationships matters. It makes a big difference in children's early development and gives them a foundation for lifelong learning. That's why Quality Matters Monterey County was created to offer quality improvement resources and support to early care and education programs.



### About Quality Matters Monterey County

Quality Matters Monterey County is a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS), part of a national movement to increase the quality of early learning programs. California has made a big investment in QRIS, and will continue this investment over the next several years. In Monterey County, our goal is for all family child care homes and subsidized child care centers to participate, and to have active participation by private centers. Become a part of the growing Quality Matters community and get access to quality improvement funding and supports for your program.








## About Quality Matters Ratings

Quality Matters ratings are determined using statewide standards for early care and education quality. Early learning centers are rated on seven elements, while family child care homes are rated on five:

1. CHILD OBSERVATION
2. DEVELOPMENTAL & HEALTH SCREENING
3. STAFF TRAINING & EDUCATION
4. POSITIVE TEACHER-CHILD INTERACTIONS
5. TEACHER-TO-CHILD RATIOS\*
6. ENVIRONMENT
7. DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS\*

*\*Family child care homes are not rated in these elements.*

Programs receive a rating from one to five stars in each element. These scores are averaged together to determine the total Quality Matters rating. Here are the five possible Quality Matters ratings:

	EXCELLENCE IN QUALITY
	EXCEEDING QUALITY
	ACHIEVING QUALITY
	RISING QUALITY
	COMMITTED TO QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Ratings are published on the Quality Matters website, [www.qualitymattersmonterey.org](http://www.qualitymattersmonterey.org). Programs can also choose to participate in Quality Matters without being rated.

## What to Expect as a Quality Matters Participant

Quality Matters Monterey County values your dedication to Monterey County's children. We are committed to helping you provide the highest quality care and services possible through our personalized, holistic approach to quality improvement.

When you join Quality Matters Monterey County, you will receive an on-site orientation. You will also complete a self-assessment and receive some initial assistance to prepare you for the rating process.

Once you have been rated, you will have access to a range of quality improvement supports based on your quality improvement goals. Our coaches and trainers will work with you and other staff in your program to develop a plan that works for you!

You will also receive participation incentives, and you may receive additional resources to help you make improvements to your program.

## Join Today!

To download an application, visit [www.qualitymattersmonterey.org](http://www.qualitymattersmonterey.org). If you have questions, please refer to our Educator's Guide: Frequently Asked Questions, or contact Eliza Gomez, Quality Matters Monterey County QRIS Coordinator, at [elgomez@montereycoe.org](mailto:elgomez@montereycoe.org) or (831)783-5289.