

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

Frequently Asked Questions for Family Child Care Homes

What is Quality Matters Monterey County?

Quality Matters Monterey County is an initiative designed to support early care and education programs in increasing the quality of their programs. Quality Matters provides support and resources to help programs give children the best care and early education possible.

As a family child care home provider, how does Quality Matters help me?

Quality Matters provides support that is tailored to your needs with the following:

- Assessments and a rating to understand your strengths and areas for improvement.
- Coaching, professional development, training, technical assistance, and resources to help you make changes that will improve the quality of your program.
- Recognition and marketing materials to thank you for your commitment to quality and to let families, colleagues, and other community members know you are part of Quality Matters.

What do Quality Matters ratings measure?

For family child care homes, Quality Matters ratings measure five elements of early learning quality:

1. CHILD OBSERVATION
2. DEVELOPMENTAL & HEALTH SCREENING
3. STAFF TRAINING & EDUCATION
4. POSITIVE TEACHER-CHILD INTERACTIONS
5. ENVIRONMENT

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

Refer to the Quality Matters Matrix to learn more about each of these elements.

Will my rating be public information?

Yes. Ratings are published on the Quality Matters website, www.qualitymattersmonterey.org. The website also gives information to help parents and others understand what the ratings mean.

How are ratings determined?

The rating is determined by **two** things: **external assessments and a rating visit/review of your site portfolio.**

External Assessments

External assessments determine your rating for Element 3, Positive Teacher-Child Interactions, and Element 4, Environment.

1. The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) assesses positive teacher-child interactions.
 - CLASS Infant is used in settings serving babies from birth to 18 months
 - CLASS Toddler is used in child care settings serving children 15 months through three years
 - CLASS Pre-K is used in settings serving children three years to five years

If your program has mixed ages, we will use the tool that corresponds to the majority of the children's ages.

2. The Environmental Rating Scales (ERS) assesses the program's environment.
 - FCCERS-R is used in family child care programs serving children birth through school age

Rating Visit/Review of Site Portfolio

The remaining elements are scored by a trained rater following the CLASS and ERS assessments. You will be asked in advance to compile documentation of things like your education level, your professional development activities, and screening tools used in your program. The rater will review this information to determine your rating, then meet with you during the rating visit to discuss this information and your rating.

How do I know when my assessments and rating visit will take place?

Once you have been accepted to Quality Matters and received your orientation, assessor will contact you to give you information about your upcoming assessment.

Your coach will let you know the week that your assessment will take place. The assessment may happen on any day during that week.

Once your assessments are complete, the rater will contact you to schedule your rating visit.

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Do I have to be rated to participate in Quality Matters?

No. You have **two** options for participating in Quality Matters:

- 1. Quality Rating and Improvement (QRI) Pathway (Rated):** Your program will receive reliable CLASS and ERS assessments and a quality rating. Using this information, you and a coach will create a quality improvement plan to help you achieve your quality improvement goals.
- 2. Quality Improvement (QI) Pathway (Not Rated):** Your program will receive a roadmap to begin your quality improvement work, including support to complete a self-assessment and create a quality improvement plan.

What benefits do I receive for participating in Quality Matters?

There are many benefits of participation! You will be a part of the Quality Matters community of early learning professionals who are committed to ongoing quality improvement and professional development. You will receive mentoring and technical assistance from a coach who understands the challenges of operating a family child care center. You also will be a part of a growing statewide movement to raise early learning quality.

Programs that participate in Quality Matters also receive financial incentives and resources. You can choose from a range of quality improvement opportunities and supports, including:

- Coaching and mentoring
- Technical assistance
- Professional development & professional learning communities
- Specialized training based on needs
- Materials and equipment
- Leadership development (QRI Pathway only)
- ESL tutoring (QRI Pathway only)
- Higher education support (QRI Pathway only)
- Quality grants (QRI Pathway only)

Financial incentives for participation are awarded to all participants, but are higher for QRI Pathway participants.

When do I receive these benefits?

You will receive an on-site orientation and technical assistance as soon as you are accepted to participate in Quality Matters, so that you feel prepared for the rating process.

Incentives are awarded once you have completed the rating process and developed your quality improvement plan.

What if I don't have time to participate in quality improvement activities?

Quality Matters has a holistic view of quality improvement. We will work with you to develop a plan that works for your schedule and needs. We also support you throughout the implementation of your quality improvement activities, so that you have help and support in putting into practice what you learn.

You will find that your quality improvement activities are a priceless investment in your family child care business, and you will see powerful gains in the growth and development of the children in your program.

How do I join Quality Matters?

To submit an application to join Quality Matters, visit <https://www.qualitymattersmonterey.org/programs-educators>.