

Rated Elements of Quality



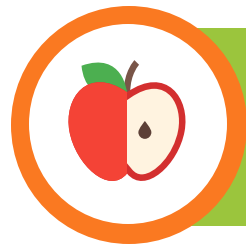
Child Observation

Highly skilled teachers use child observation to identify child strengths & opportunities for growth; and tailor their lesson planning to the unique needs of every child.



Developmental & Health Screenings

Screenings for developmental, health, and social-emotional needs help support appropriate growth & development for children.



Qualified Teachers & Providers

Qualified teachers & providers are critical to the learning & development of the young children in their care. Education & professional development are crucial to providing high quality instruction.



Effective Teacher-Child Interactions

Creating effective learning environments means teachers & providers are engaged in a variety of ways with children.



Adult to Child Ratios & Group Size

Lower adult-child ratios & smaller group size create opportunities for high quality teacher-child interactions, social skill building and provide for supervision of safety.



Safe & Engaging Program Environment

Quality environments engage children to use their creativity & experience to learn new concepts, provide high interest learning activities & materials, and maintain a safe environment.



Qualified Early Learning Center Directors

Quality programs thrive with quality leadership. Leaders require targeted education & professional development.

Additional Key Elements of Quality

There are many additional elements of quality which are currently not rated. These elements are still important areas of focus for building quality in early learning & care settings. Families seeking the best learning environments for their young children may also consider these elements of high quality care:

- Culturally Appropriate Family Engagement
- Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum based on recognized Early Learning Standards
- Support for Multi-Lingual Learners
- Practices that promote Social-Emotional Development of children
- Attention to Nutrition and Physical Activity

About Quality Counts Ratings

Studies show that high quality early learning and care environments are key to healthy brain development. High quality, early learning experiences can improve a child's health, social-emotional skills, and academic readiness for school.

Marin Quality Counts (MQC) is a systematic approach to promoting excellence in early learning and care environments for programs, providers and families. MQC engages a variety of program types in its Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), including center-based preschools, infant/toddler programs, and family child care homes. All participating programs are dedicated to working toward high quality care and education by addressing key elements of quality within their program. While participation at any level demonstrates a program's commitment to quality, programs earning higher tier ratings have implemented many specific practices to ensure a high quality program for children.

Key Rated Elements

1. Child Observation
2. Developmental & Health Screenings
3. Qualified Teachers & Providers
4. Effective Teacher-Child Interactions
5. Adult to Child Ratios & Group Size
6. Safe & Engaging Program Environment
7. Qualified Early Learning Directors

HERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO NOTE ABOUT THE RATING SYSTEM

- Regardless of their rating, all providers and programs who are included in MQC are committed to quality & already have an expressed stake in quality improvement
- A QRIS Rating is a comprehensive assessment that is based on multiple elements
- The QRIS rating serves to give insight into the early learning & care program's level of quality and commitment to continually improve quality
- Many factors influence a family's choice in early learning & care programs beyond a rating. Every child is different & every family has unique needs.



Tier Ratings

- TIER 1: Participating in Quality Standards
TIER 2: Approaching High Quality Standards
TIER 3: Implementing High Quality Standards
TIER 4: Mastering High Quality Standards
TIER 5: Exceeding High Quality Standards



**Marin
Quality
Counts**

Promoting Excellence in Early Care and Education

