

Elements of Quality Care



Health and safety

Attention to health and safety is critical to high quality care. The facility should look organized, safe, and clean. Teachers should be alert to cleanliness and safety at all times.

Learning environment and group size/ratio

Nurturing environments meet each child's needs and support the development of the whole child. The group size and number of children per caregiver can affect your child's ability to grow and learn. Often the smaller the group size, the better.



Quality improvement

Being accredited and/or participating in the state's quality improvement system (Washington Early Achievers), if it is available, shows that a program meets higher standards for child care than licensing requirements. Common accrediting organizations include National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC).

Family relationships and participation

Participating in your child care program sends the message that you are interested in what your child is doing and learning. Providers should have an open door policy, make meaningful efforts to engage all families and embrace diversity.



Staff professionalism, training, and turnover

It is important that adults who care for children have the knowledge and experience to meet children's needs and to value the cultural, ethnic, religious, and lifestyle diversity of families. Early childhood education, training, experience and low staff turnover often go along with higher quality care and successful relationships with diverse groups of children.