# **Information for families**

# **Rating quality in early childhood education and care**

## What you need to know

The National Quality Framework was introduced to raise the quality of early childhood education and care in Australia.

The National Quality Framework applies to long day care, family day care, outside school hours care, pre-Prep and kindergarten services and includes:

* improved child to educator ratios
* improved educator qualification requirements
* improved learning programs
* a National Quality Standard.

All services are assessed and rated against the seven areas of the National Quality Standard:

1. Educational program and practice
2. Children’s health and safety
3. Physical environment
4. Staffing arrangements
5. Relationships with children
6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
7. Governance and leadership

Services are given a rating for each of the quality areas, and an overall rating based on these results.

Ratings are published on the MyChild website at www.mychild.gov.au and the Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority website at www.acecqa.gov.au.

Services must display their ratings.

## What do the ratings mean?

All services must meet minimum legislative requirements to ensure your child’s safety, health and wellbeing.

Services are also required to improve the quality of their program and practices to meet the National Quality Standard.

Your service’s rating shows how it is performing against the quality standards.

It is important to look at the rating for each of the seven quality areas as well the overall rating.

All services must meet minimum legislative requirements to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of children. Services are encourages to continually improve the quality of education and care.

A table includes information about the ratings:

### Significant Improvement required

Service does not meet 1 of the 7 quality areas or a section of the legislation and there is a significant risk to the safety, health and wellbeing of children.

The regulatory authority will take immediate action.

### Working Towards National Quality Standard

Services provides a safe education and care program.

There are 1 or more areas identified for improvement.

### Meeting National Quality Standard

Service meets the National Quality Standard.

Service provides quality education and care in all 7 quality areas.

### Exceeding National Quality Standard

Service goes beyond the requirements of the National Quality Standard in at least 4 of the 7 quality areas.

### Excellent

Service promotes exceptional education and care, demonstrates sector leadership and is committed to continually improving.

Awarded by ACECQA.

Services rated Exceeding National Quality Standard in all quality areas may [choose to apply for this rating](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/assessment/excellent-rating).

The Queensland Government monitors all services to ensure they meet their legal requirements, regardless of whether they have been assessed and rated.

## Key points for families

* Every service is different so the way in which they meet the National Quality Standard will also be different.
* Consider your service’s rating in each of the seven quality areas as well as its overall rating.
* Discuss ratings with your service provider to learn how they are working to meet the National Quality Standard and how you can be involved, even if your service has not yet been rated.
* Service providers need your feedback. What you think about your service’s strengths and weaknesses can help them develop their ongoing Quality Improvement Plan.

## More information

Visit www.det.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/

For your service’s rating visit MyChild website at www.mychild.gov.au or the Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) website at www.acecqa.gov.au

Families can visit the Starting Blocks website at www.startingblocks.gov.au/ Services can subscribe to the ACECQA newsletter at ww.acecqa.gov.au/Subscribe.aspx

Or phone the ACECQA hotline on 1300 422 327 during business hours\*.

\*Calls from mobile phones are charged at applicable rates.

Children are born ready to learn. With 90 per cent of a child’s brain development occurring in the first eight years, we want to give them the best start in life and learning through quality early childhood education and care.