

Quality Early Childhood Programs

WHAT PROVIDERS MAY WANT TO KNOW

WHAT ARE “QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS?”

Quality early childhood programs provide experiences that optimize each child’s development, learning and health, engage families and communities in partnerships and cultivate life-long learners and productive members of society.

WHAT DO WE HOPE FOR OUR CHILDREN?

We hope that all children are joyful, prepared to learn, and remain curious throughout their lives. We want them to use their knowledge and curiosity to contribute to the benefit of our world.

REFLECTING ON PROGRAM QUALITY

We all want to provide the highest quality of care for the children and families that we serve. But how do we know what that looks like? While programs and services are many and varied, there are common elements that serve as markers of quality.

The series of questions on the back may help you reflect on the quality of your program. Your answers to these questions will not tell you everything about the quality of your program or service, but they can give you a place to start.



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QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF:

- ✓ Do you know and understand each child and family as individuals?
- ✓ Do you recognize each child's individual gifts and challenges, and encourage him to grow and learn accordingly?
- ✓ Do you consider each child as a whole, including her development, learning, and health?
- ✓ Do you have a relationship with each child and his parent or guardian?
- ✓ Do you partner with parents or guardians when planning for each child's needs?
- ✓ Do you connect parents or guardians to other resources in the community, which may be helpful to them?
- ✓ Do you encourage and facilitate each child's curiosity?
- ✓ Do you give each child a chance to play and imagine, depending on your program or service?

For more information about quality early childhood programs, visit:

Spark NH: <http://www.sparknh.org>

Family Resource Connection:
<http://www.nh.gov/nhsl/frc/index.html>

Child Care Aware: <http://nh.childcareaware.org>

Produced by: Spark NH, Early Childhood Advisory Council, focusing on expectant families & young children from birth through 3rd grade & their families.

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