

Am I Ready for KQRIS?

Helping early childhood programs improve quality has always been a primary goal for KQRIS. Since its inception, facilitating the quality improvement process has motivated our work and informed our outcomes. Participating in a KQRIS Quality Rating is a significant commitment to the children and families you serve, and to your child care providers. Preparing for a Quality Rating also represents a significant investment of time and energy on the part of everyone in your program.

Child Care Aware® of Kansas believes that there are basic steps every early learning program can take to insure that their Quality Rating truly reflects the best their program has to offer, and that may improve services for children and families at the same time. A KQRIS Quality Rating is available only to licensed center-based and family child care programs.

Programs generally get the most benefit from a KQRIS Quality Rating when they have achieved some stability in staffing and daily operations. To ensure that your program is prepared to participate in a quality rating program, consider whether your program meets the following criteria before applying:

- The program has been in operation for at least one year
- Less than 50% staff turnover in the last year
- Current director/provider has been in position at least one year
- Program has been at present location at least 6 months—no plans to relocate in next six months
- Any outstanding licensing violations have been corrected
- Program has at least 4 full time children enrolled in each classroom (except infant age groups)
- Family child care homes serve at least two families, not including the provider's own

Once you apply for KQRIS, your program will participate in *Getting Ready for Ratings*; a preparation course that will help your program learn about the KQRIS criterion in more detail so that your program is fully prepared for the rating experience. *Getting Ready for Ratings* is delivered on-site at your program by a trained Quality Improvement Coach who will walk you through each of the KQRIS Quality Rating components. Once completed (about 4 – 6 weeks), your program will be able to estimate your own KQRIS Star Rating.

If you feel your program is ready to participate in KQRIS, contact the KQRIS Quality Improvement Coach at your local Child Care Resource & Referral agency.

For more information about KQRIS in general, contact our Quality Initiatives Manager, at 877-678-2548 or kqris@ks.childcareaware.org.

