



Kansas' most trusted child care resource.

## Quality Steps Project

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### Description

The Infant/Toddler Quality Steps *Project* –is a strengths-based project that building on the knowledge and skills child care providers already possess. The Quality Steps Project supports participants in discovering their strengths and in using those strengths and skills to develop knowledge and change practices that lead to lasting quality improvement. It is an innovative program that focuses on supporting child care providers in making intentional changes around key areas of quality. This project engages child care providers to participate in technical assistance consultations, professional development and parent engagement activities focused on promoting quality improvements in their child care settings.

Four focus areas will be addressed: quality, availability, child development and professional development.

- **Quality:** Frequent technical assistance, resources, quality improvement plans, and peer learning group meetings will be delivered to project participants. Strengthening Families/Protective Factors consumer educational materials will be distributed to engage families.
- **Availability:** Financial support (grants) and technical assistance will be available to the Quality Steps Project participants to assist with increasing the number of infant/toddler slots available. Participants will also develop a sustainability plan to ensure that new infant/toddler slots are maintained.
- **Child Development:** Developmental screening assessments will be conducted on infants/toddlers in programs enrolled in the Quality Steps Project, including follow-up referrals to community resources. Supplementary screening materials and resources will be distributed.
- **Professional Development:** Infant/toddler specific professional development will be offered.

### Delivering Services – A highlight of who does what?

#### Child Care Aware® of Kansas:

- Provides oversight and management of Outcomes
- Synopsizes and reports data to funders
- Provides training and technical assistance to CCR&R Infant/Toddler Specialist
- Administers grant and stipend components of the Quality Steps Project

#### CCR&Rs:

- Hire and supervise CCR&R Infant/Toddler Specialist
- Recruit Early Childhood Wellness Project participants
- Deliver technical assistance to Quality Steps participants and child care providers in SDA
- Report outcome data to Child Care Aware® of Kansas