

Understanding the elements of quality



- **Participating early care and education programs** focus on fostering a constructive learning environment that values education and innovation. Children's brains develop most rapidly in their first five years, making those years the most critically important for building a foundation for lifelong learning.
- **Qualified teachers create** a positive environment that supports active learning. Quality Rated programs are staffed by experienced, educated early learning professionals continually in search of new training opportunities.
- **Low teacher to student ratios** ensure that children receive the attention and direction necessary to lay the foundation on which their academic careers will be built.
- **An educated child also needs** to be a healthy child, which is why Quality Rated emphasizes physical activity and nutrition. Children will have 30+ minutes each day of physical activity and access to healthy foods, including more fresh fruits and vegetables.



qualityrated.org
877-ALL-GAKIDS



Quality Rated was created and implemented through a strong public-private partnership among corporate and private funders, government and not-for-profit organizations that provide leadership, technical expertise and funding. Partners include:

Bright from the Start: The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL). DECAL is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers Georgia's Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program and federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs. www.dec.al.ga.gov.

GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS). GEEARS inspires and leads a statewide movement on early learning and development for children ages birth to five through outreach to business, funders, and civic leaders using public awareness efforts, advocacy and public policy influence. GEEARS' vision is that, by 2020, every student in Georgia will enter kindergarten prepared to succeed and on a path to "read to learn" by the third grade. www.geears.org.

Georgia Family Connection Partnership (GaFCP). GaFCP is a public-private, not-for-profit organization created by the state of Georgia and private investors to help communities address the serious challenges facing children and families. GaFCP supports Georgia Family Connection, a neutral, nonpartisan network with a Collaborative in all 159 counties—the only network of its kind in the nation. To find your local Collaborative, go to gafcp.org.

These materials were reproduced and distributed with support from the United Way of Greater Atlanta.

right place bright future



Introducing Georgia's new community-powered early education rating system:

The easy way to find the right early care and education program for your child.

Explore all kinds of options all across Georgia - each rated for the quality your child needs.

Why Quality Rated?



If you could prepare your child for a healthier, happier life, would you?

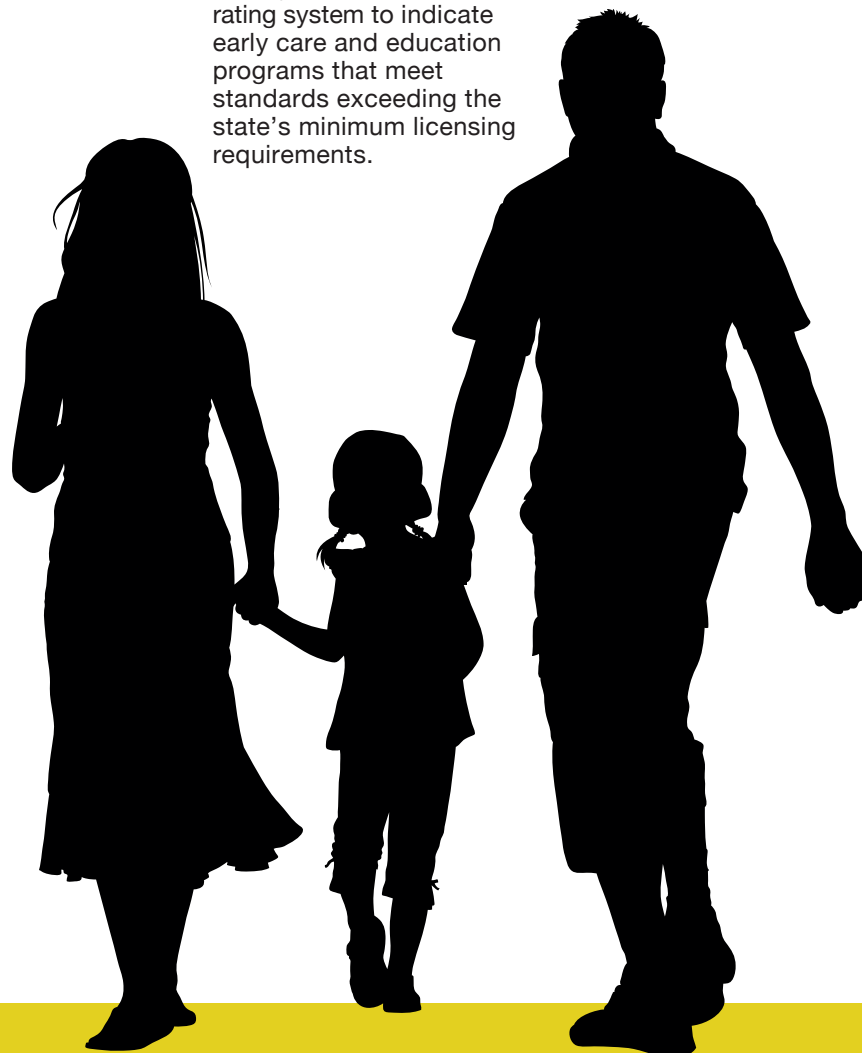
Of course you would, and now you can.

Children experience their most rapid and significant brain development before they ever walk through the doors of kindergarten, making early education the foundation for a bright future. In fact, research shows that children who enter kindergarten without attending some sort of high quality early education program frequently fall behind.

Early education provides the foundation for success in school, college, career and life.

Quality Rated is Georgia's voluntary, community-powered early education rating system that identifies and rewards early care and education programs exhibiting high merit. A Quality Rated program will set children on solid educational footing by developing skills they will need to succeed in K-12 and beyond, including getting along with others, following directions, and preparing them for reading and math.

Similar to rating systems for other service industries like restaurants and hotels, Quality Rated uses a star rating system to indicate early care and education programs that meet standards exceeding the state's minimum licensing requirements.



Star ratings are based on the following standards. To find the star rating for a Quality Rated program, visit www.QualityRated.org.

One Star:

Program has demonstrated a commitment to meeting standards that exceed state health and safety requirements, meets several quality thresholds and **scores sufficiently** on an independent observation.

Two Stars:

Program has demonstrated a commitment to meeting standards that exceed state health and safety requirements, meets many quality thresholds and **scores well** on an independent observation.

Three Stars:

Program has demonstrated a commitment to meeting standards that exceed state health and safety requirements, meets numerous quality thresholds and **scores high** on an independent observation.

Quality Rated was designed so a family selecting any participating program can have peace of mind knowing that the program is committed to continuous improvement and the highest standards in Georgia. By enrolling your child in a Quality Rated program, you'll be putting your child in the right place for a bright future.

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