



The first five years of a child's life are critical, laying the foundation for future success in school and life. Raising Quality! helps San Joaquin County parents find high quality child care and early learning opportunities for young children. It also recognizes the valuable work of child care providers, and brings resources and support to programs committed to improving quality.



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A guide for providers

RaisingQualitySJC.org



WHAT IS Raising Quality!?

Raising Quality!

is a quality rating improvement system for early care and education programs in San Joaquin County. Funded by a federal Race to the Top grant and organized by First 5 San Joaquin, Raising Quality! will help improve child care in our community by:

- **Emphasizing the value of quality** in early care and education
- **Empowering parents** to make well-informed decisions about the quality of care their children receive
- **Giving child care providers valuable tools** for improving their programs
- **Establishing uniform standards** of excellence in early care

WHY DOES QUALITY MATTER?

Research shows that children who attend high quality child

care programs are better prepared for school, have more success in reading and math, and are more likely to go to college. As parents, child care providers, educators and citizens, we have a responsibility to make sure all of our children have the very best early learning experiences.



CAN MY PROGRAM PARTICIPATE IN RAISING QUALITY!?

Raising Quality! is open to any licensed child care program, public or private, that serves children ages 0 to 5. Priority is given to programs that serve low-income families, and children who are non-English speakers, and/or have special needs. Eligible programs include:

- Child care centers or family child care homes
- State-funded preschool sites
- Head Start sites
- Title I sites
- General child care sites
- State-funded migrant sites
- Faith-based child care centers

As a Raising Quality! participant, your program may display the Raising Quality! seal.



HOW DOES THE RAISING QUALITY! SYSTEM WORK?

Programs participating in Raising Quality! are evaluated based on factors that influence children's healthy development, including:

- Curriculum and learning opportunities
- Children's interactions with adults
- Training and education of staff
- Adult-to-child ratios and group sizes
- Parent involvement

All Raising Quality! participants are able to display the Raising Quality! seal, which demonstrates their commitment to providing quality services. Participants are evaluated on a five level system, with the first level indicating that the program meets all basic health and safety guidelines. The other levels represent additional quality factors within participants' programs. As the program works to achieve higher quality, it is rated at the higher levels.

HOW DOES RAISING QUALITY! BENEFIT MY PROGRAM?

Participants in Raising Quality! have demonstrated that they are dedicated to providing the best in quality child care and education. They are committed to making their programs even better and are eligible for:

- **Training**
- **Scholarships** for professional development
- **Quality awards**, ranging from \$400 to \$12,000 in recognition of achieving program benchmarks

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE OR APPLY TO PARTICIPATE?

Contact First 5 San Joaquin at (209) 953-5437 or visit www.RaisingQualitySJC.org. The Raising Quality! program application is available online at the First 5 San Joaquin website.



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