

# Consumer Education Quality Guide

## What Is Quality Child Care?

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A quality child care environment is safe, clean and provides children with many learning opportunities. The child care provider ensures children are supervised at all times, nutritious meals and snacks are served and toys and learning activities are age appropriate. Also, the caregivers foster positive interactions and encourages parent involvement.



Studies show that children who receive quality child care enter school with better math, language, and social skills. These skills give your child a good start to succeed in school and life.

Be sure to visit your child's potential child care provider to make certain your child will receive care that meets their needs.

## State Recognized Quality Child Care Indicators

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### Texas Rising Star Certified Providers



The Texas Rising Star program is the quality-based child care rating system of child care providers within the state of Texas. TRS Certification is required for all Licensed Center and Licensed and Registered Child Care Home providers with an agreement to serve Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)- subsidized children and who meet the certification criteria. The TRS Provider certification system offers three levels of certification (Two-Star, Three-Star, and Four-Star) to encourage providers to attain progressively higher certification requirements leading to a Four-Star level.

### Texas School Ready! Certification



Texas School Ready!™ is a program that certifies preschool education classrooms that effectively prepared their students for kindergarten when classrooms earn certification, they receive the Texas School Ready!™ seal which is posted in the early childhood education center or school. The seal has the year the certification was awarded. This powerful seal tells parents, the community, and others that the children who graduated from these classrooms went to public kindergarten with the fundamental skills in place to be successful.

## Choosing A Child Care Provider

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### Questions to Ask Potential Providers:

- ☆ **Has the program been inspected by Child Care Licensing within the last 12 months? If so, were there any deficiencies cited?**
- ☆ **How long has the child care provider been providing care?**
- ☆ **Does the center look clean and safe and does everyone wash their hands often?**
- ☆ **What are the child/adult ratios?**
- ☆ **Does the child care provider welcome drop-in visits, parent ideas and involvement?**
- ☆ **Are there planned activities for children to do as well as lots of time for free play?**
- ☆ **Are materials such as books, blocks, toys and art supplies available to children all day long?**
- ☆ **Have satisfactory criminal background history background checks been conducted on each staff member?**
- ☆ **Is the center nationally accredited or hold a quality rating recognized by the state?**
- ☆ **Do you hear the sound of happy children?**