

Be recognized  
for the **quality**  
you offer.



## Child Care & Early Learning Program Leaders: Connect with the Virginia Quality Community Today!

### ***Join a Community of Leaders and Learners***

The Virginia Quality community consists of leading child care centers, preschools, and family child care homes across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**By voluntarily joining Virginia Quality, early learning programs show their staff, families, and community that they are committed to quality for young children.** There is no fee to participate in Virginia Quality.

Virginia Quality sets standards for quality and provides a path for continuous quality improvement.

**The Virginia Quality Levels are a framework for program quality improvement.** Each level builds on the one before it, and prepares programs for the level that comes next. Programs progress through the levels at their own pace, based on their current level of quality, and which aspects of quality they are ready to demonstrate next.

### **Virginia Quality is the state's voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System.**

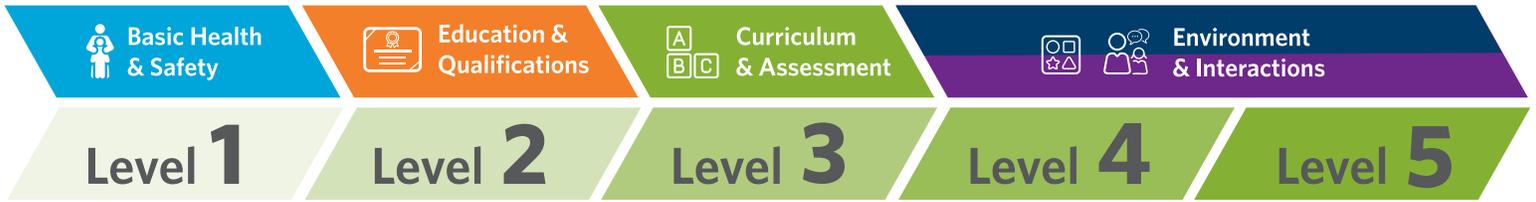
Quality Rating and Improvement Systems exist in most states across the country and are a proven strategy to systematically improve the quality of child care and early learning programs.

Virginia Quality focuses on continuous quality improvement, recognizes early learning programs' commitment to excellence, and supports programs with tools and services to achieve top quality.



Committed to Quality  
Early Learning

# Quality Improvement Framework



## Basic Health & Safety

Compliance with requirements of state and local regulatory agencies is the first step on the quality improvement path.

## Education & Qualifications

A teacher's formal education in child development or early childhood education has an impact on children's school readiness. When teachers have some formal education, they are more prepared to intentionally support children's learning through high quality interactions.

## Curriculum & Assessment

Intentional teaching has an impact on children's school readiness. Quality early learning programs intentionally promote children's learning and development and align curriculum and assessments with state guidelines, including Virginia's Milestones of Child Development and Foundation Blocks for Early Learning.

### ▶▶ Fast-Track to Level 3

A Virginia Quality "fast track" exists for early learning programs participating in quality improvement systems such as: Virginia Preschool Initiative, Head Start, NAEYC Accreditation, AdvancED and others.

## Environment

Children engaged in meaningful learning and play, guided by qualified caregivers in an enriched educational environment, has an impact on school readiness. Quality environments include many and varied play materials and activities available to the children throughout the day.

## Interactions

Interactions between teachers and children support social and cognitive learning, significantly impacting school readiness. In addition to high quality materials and intentional teaching, children benefit most when they experience high quality interactions.

## Be recognized and receive support for continuous quality improvement.

Early learning programs engaged in Virginia Quality:

- Learn about and incorporate best practices in early education and care.
- Receive recognition for existing quality work with children and families.
- Develop practical goals and strategies to guide program improvement.
- Access professional development, technical assistance, and grants linked to achieving and maintaining quality.
- Communicate to families the good work you do every day and your work to continually improve quality.

## Contact us today

 [VAQRIS@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:VAQRIS@dss.virginia.gov)

 [VirginiaQuality.com](http://VirginiaQuality.com)