



Welcome to **Quality Start San Bernardino County!**

We're so excited that you decided to join us today, and for taking this great step toward improving the quality of child care in our community.

During the next 10 minutes or so, we'll be sharing the following information:

- What is Quality Start San Bernardino County, also known as QSSB?
- Why is it important to children and families and the community of San Bernardino?
- How might QSSB benefit me?
- How do I know if I am eligible and how do I enroll?
- When will I be contacted for my first visit?
- What type of contract will I be asked to sign?
- How and when will my child care or preschool be assessed?
- How is the rating determined?
- What type of quality improvement plan will I follow?
- Will I receive any training, supports or incentives?

Okay, let's get started!

Quality Start San Bernardino County is a countywide Quality Rating and Improvement System, or QRIS, implemented and led by the following collaborators:

- First 5 San Bernardino
- San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
- Child Care Resource Center
- California State University, San Bernardino

### **What is QSSB and why is it important to children and families in our community?**

QSSB is designed to assess, improve and communicate the level of quality in early care and education programs. Similar to ratings you might find in restaurants and hotels, QSSB designates quality ratings to programs that meet a set of defined program standards.



By participating in QSSB, early care providers commit to a path of continuous learning and quality improvement.

- 1-Emerging Quality
- 2-Rising Quality
- 3-Quality
- 4-Quality Plus
- 5-Highest Quality

QSSB is also a great resource for parents in understanding, choosing and evaluating early care and education programs. High quality early learning environments will vary but all have several things in common, these include:

- Attention to a child's safety and well-being
- Appropriate child to caregiver ratios
- Regular opportunities for parent involvement
- Learning experiences that are appropriate depending on a child's age, development, and culture
- Caregivers have early childhood training and education

And, most importantly, children benefit. The first five years of a child's life are extremely important. Research shows that the care and education children receive from birth to age five play a major role in their early brain development.

High quality early learning experiences have also been proven to make a lasting difference in a child's life. Children who receive a high quality early education:

- Have better critical thinking skills
- Are better at engaging and cooperating with others
- Do better in reading and math
- Are more likely to graduate from high school
- And, are more likely to attend a four year college!

### **How might QSSB benefit me?**

Professionals in early childhood education experience a wide variety of benefits when participating in QSSB. If you are approved, you may receive:

- A quality assessment and rating
- Professional development coaching
- Training to enhance quality



- Incentives and other resources
- And support from a collaborative community of like-minded professionals

### **How do I know if I am eligible and how do I enroll?**

It's pretty easy to get the process started!

The minimum requirement for child care centers and family child care providers is a license in "good standing" with California's Community Care Licensing.

Legally, license-exempt child care centers may qualify if the program is operated by a school district, tribal-approved, Cal-Safe, adult education preschool program, or based on a military installation. Other qualifying license-exempt child care providers include child care provided by a relative in any arrangement.

To see if your program qualifies you may complete and submit an application or call Traci Brody, for whom contact information will be provided at the conclusion of this video.

After you finish watching this video, simply complete the online application and press submit. You'll receive an email confirming your eligibility.

### **When will I be contacted for my first visit?**

Within 2 weeks of your eligibility confirmation, a Professional Development Coach will contact you to set up the first visit.

During that visit, the coach will:

- Explain the program in more detail including the requirements to participate,
- Review the required documentation,
- Help you complete the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the application, and
- Assist you with completing the scoring sheet.

### **What type of contract will I be asked to sign?**

You will receive a contract packet – via email – once your eligibility has been determined. After your first visit, the completion of the 2<sup>ND</sup> part of the application, and your thorough review of the contract, the signed contract and supporting documents must be mailed to the specified



address within 30 calendar days of your receipt of the packet. Extensions may be granted on a case by case basis.

### **How and when will my child care or preschool be rated?**

Participating programs are measured and receive a rating ranging from 1 to 5. The rating helps identify strengths and opportunities to grow, and helps parents make informed child care decisions.

- 1- Emerging Quality
- 2- Rising Quality
- 3- Quality
- 4- Quality Plus
- 5- Highest Quality

QSSB raters will review all of your documentation and determine a preliminary score that is based on their review and the scoring sheet completed at the first site visit in accordance with the QSSB matrix.

Your preliminary score of 1-5 determines your QSSB path. If you receive a score of 3, 4 or 5, you will be further assessed. Facilities with a score of 1 or 2 will be rated without further assessment.

### **How is the rating determined?**

In addition to the documentation that has already been provided, all participants will receive at least one visit from a QSSB rater.

If you are being rated based on your preliminary score of 1 or 2, you will be contacted to schedule a ratings visit within a 2 week window at a date and time specified by you.

On the day of the visit, the QSSB rater will need a space to review information, 2 randomly chosen child files and a classroom ratio count. The rater will also meet with the facility administrator.

After the visit, the rating will be determined and you will receive a letter with a copy of the rating report.

If you are being assessed based on your preliminary score of 3-5, you will be contacted to receive additional visits and assessments including the Classroom Assessment Scoring System



(CLASS) and Environment Ratings Scale (ERS). With few exceptions, a classroom may not opt out of an assessment.

The ratings process will follow the same path as previously described.

### **What type of quality improvement plan (QIP) will I follow?**

Utilizing your ratings report, a QSSB coach will develop an individualized QIP with you. Once the tailored plan is in place, you will receive coaching visits, technical assistance and resources based on your needs.

### **Will I receive any other training, supports or incentives?**

Being a part of QSSB is being a part of a very supportive community. You will have access to professional development opportunities, coaching and trainings which may include:

- Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) 2015 (Fundamental & Comprehensive)
- Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE2)
- CLASS for Infant, Toddler and Pre-K
- Environmental Rating Scales (ERS)
- Program for Infant-Toddler Care (PITC)
- California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN)
- Strengthening Families – Five Protective Factors
- Other trainings as identified and available

QSSB's quarterly newsletter will offer insights, information and opportunities to participate in community events.

And, let's not forget the monetary incentives! These incentives are based on your achievement level as determined in the ratings process.

For participating, you will receive the following:

Level 5 = \$2,000 + \$1000 Q-Bucks

Level 4 = \$1,500 + \$1000 Q-Bucks

Level 3 = \$1,000 + \$1000 Q-Bucks

Levels 1 & 2 = \$1,500 Q-Bucks



Q-Bucks may be spent on a menu of options including:

- Materials in line with Quality Improvement Plan
- Substitute Reimbursement for Training
- Reimbursement for CA QRIS/QSSB professional development trainings

**There you have it – your introduction to Quality Start San Bernardino County!**

**It's a lot to remember so here's a recap of what you need to do to participate:**

Watch this video! Yay! You've almost completed the first step.

Complete and submit the application.

Schedule and complete your first coaching visit.

Sign the contract.

Maintain contact with your coach and complete your assessments and/or ratings requirements.

Complete all of the necessary paperwork accurately and on time.

Actively participate in your coaching sessions.

Work toward meeting the individual goals you develop with your coach!

Utilize your incentives and trainings to build your quality!

Please contact Traci Brody at (909) 387-8509 if you:

- Have any questions
- Need further information
- Would like to receive a hard copy of the application
- Require language assistance

**Please make sure to complete and submit your application!**

**Thank you for interest in Quality Start San Bernardino County.**