



## 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, families, and the community of San Bernardino?
- How might QSSB benefit me?
- How do I know if I am eligible?
- How do I enroll?
- Will I be asked to sign a contract?
- What type of quality improvement plan will I follow?
- Will I receive any trainings or supports?

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
- San Bernardino County Preschool Services Department

Since the program began in 2016, QSSB has enrolled over 234 early education sites including:

- 154 large centers
- 74 Family Child Care homes
- 6 Family, Friend, and Neighbor care givers

More than 10,000 infant to preschool age children across the county have been served by these participating educators. Isn't that amazing!

### **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. The majority of enrolled programs are reviewed and given a quality rating. The ratings are determined by state defined standards in three core areas: child development and school readiness, teacher qualifications, and overall program and environment.

For other programs, or alternative sites like family resource centers, home - visiting programs, and community based organizations such as libraries, QSSB coaches according to these standards but does not distribute a rating.

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
- 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:

- Professional development coaching
- Training to enhance quality
- Incentives and other resources
- And support from a collaborative community of like-minded professionals

One important note about this year regarding COVID-19. Like the rest of the education community, QSSB is making program changes to keep our staff, participants, and children safe. Changes include, but are not limited to: over the phone, email, and virtual technical support, coaching, and training. We are following the procedures created by the California Department of Education and will communicate changes and expectations with participants accordingly.

### **How do I know if I am eligible?**

You are eligible if you are a community or home-based child care setting that provides early learning and school readiness services to parents and young children and are not a subsidized child care or preschool site.

This includes, but is not limited to, family resource centers, home visiting programs, and community based organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs and libraries.

After you finish watching this video simply complete the confirmation form and click submit. You will receive an email confirming your eligibility.

For any questions regarding your eligibility you may also call Child Care Resource Center, the QSSB partner overseeing all family child care and private center sites enrolled in QSSB. Contact information will be provided at the conclusion of the video.



## **How do I enroll?**

It's pretty easy to get the process started!

Enrollment in QSSB happens in 3 simple steps:

- Fill out and submit an Orientation Confirmation form stating you have completed viewing this video.
- Keep an eye on your email, we will send a letter confirming your eligibility and remainder of the enrollment packet.
- Review and sign the QSSB contract.

## **Will I be asked to sign a contract?**

You will receive a contract packet via email once your eligibility has been determined. After completing the required paperwork and thorough review of the contract, simply submit the signed contract and supporting documents according to the written instructions. Extensions may be granted on a case by case basis.

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

QSSB personnel will work with you to develop an individualized QIP. Once the tailored plan is in place, you will receive coaching support, 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:

- Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE2)
- California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN)
- Strengthening Families – Five Protective Factors
- Communities of Practice
- Other trainings as identified and available

All participants are required to have a California Early Care and Education Workforce Registry number. If needed, QSSB personnel can help you set one up!

Participants will also receive QSSB newsletters which offer professional insights, resources and training opportunities.

And, let's not forget the Q-Bucks! Q-Bucks are like credits and are awarded to participants to use for supplies and training and professional development opportunities that coincide with their quality improvement plan. Please note that the amount of Q-Bucks awarded are dependent upon program funding.

There you have it – your introduction to QSSB!

## **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 and supplemental paperwork
- Sign the contract
- Maintain contact with program personnel.
- Complete all of the necessary paperwork accurately and on time.
- Actively participate in your coaching sessions, if applicable.
- Work toward meeting the individual goals you develop with your coach!
- Utilize the trainings to build your quality!



**Please contact Amanda Gray at [AGray@ccrcc.org](mailto:AGray@ccrcc.org) if you:**

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

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