



Great Start Collaborative – Wayne County Quality Rating & Improvement System Demonstration Project Fact Sheet

What is a Quality Rating & Improvement System?

A system that helps support child care providers to improve the quality of their program both in the process of delivery (child/adults relationships, environmental quality, teaching processes, etc.) and in the structure of their program (parent/caregiver relationships, business aspects, qualifications of caregivers, collaboration with others, etc).

Who qualifies to participate in this demonstration project?

For year one, this demonstration project will be offered to anyone who has been licensed or registered to provide child care in a center or home setting for at least one year in the following zip codes: 48208, 48209, 48210, 48216, 48217, and 48223. This is a voluntary project. The intent for the GSC-W is for this project to slowly expand year by year to cover the entire county as funding is available. This demonstration project is based on recommendations for a Michigan Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS) submitted to the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) for consideration with the intent to go state wide after pilot project results and funding become available.

When does this begin?

We are launching the QRIS now through December, 2009 with funding from The Skillman Foundation. It is the intent of Great Start Collaborative – Wayne (GSC-W) to continue to solicit funding to make the demonstration project ongoing until the entire county is covered. The continuance of the funding is the success of the impact on quality in the individual sites. Those who participate in the QRIS will have direct input into how this project is developed in the future, both county-wide and state-wide.



How does this work?

There are two levels of participation and two levels of rewards or incentives.

Level 1: PARTICIPANTS

1. By participating in at least 3 neighborhood early childhood network meetings per year or demonstrating at least 10 hours of approved training, a qualified child care provider will receive the Great Start Collaborative-Wayne (GSC-W) seal of partnership. This seal of partnership can be displayed in a window on the site to show the community that they are working towards improving quality. These sites will also receive a tag of the seal and permission to use it electronically on websites and e-mail signatures.
2. Local professional development trainings will be made available to all child care providers who qualify. The licensed and registered providers will receive notice of all network and training opportunities in the neighborhood. Also, each participant will receive a quality assessment tool that they can utilize themselves to help self-monitor their site.
3. All who attend neighborhood early childhood network meetings will receive an incentive gift worth at least \$25.
4. All who receive the GSC-W Seal of partnership will have their site listed on the GSC-W website (www.greatstartcollaborative.com), 4 C's list of recommended sites, and other publications. A brochure describing the QRIS will be available electronically for you to add your site information and participation level to utilize in marketing, as well as other public recognition.

Level 2: QRIS enrollees

Those who choose to participate fully in the QRIS system, voluntarily enroll in the program and will receive 1-5 Diamonds as recognition of the quality by participating in the following steps:

1. Be matched up with an early childhood specialist to help mentor and coach you through the improvement process.
2. Have an initial assessment utilizing the High Scope Program Quality Assessment (PQA) and other checklist developed by the ECIC and GSC-W to determine quality. All

- assessments are researched based and are to be used as tools in assisting each site toward improvement goals as well as to highlight the positive progress made.
3. Develop, with the mentor's assistance, an improvement plan that addresses the specifics of what each site needs to do to improve their level of scoring on the PQA and checklists.
 4. Work the plan with the mentor's assistance in identifying resources, professional development, and equipment needs which may include any of the following:
 - a. Mentor's discretionary fund to provide items needed at each visit.
 - b. Professional organization membership.
 - c. Mini-grants to buy needed supplies, equipment, or pay for professional development to meet the goals of the improvement plan and maintain licensing standards.
 - d. Scholarships to early childhood conferences and training as indicated on improvement plan. Access to neighborhood trainings. GSC-W trainings with tool kits will be developed to meet the needs indicated where there are no other sources. Funds for substitutes may be available if needed trainings are during the work day.
 - e. Connection to funders who will support early childhood improvement process for larger items, building concerns, college classes and degrees, etc.
 - f. Coaching of staff by mentor to help improve process quality.
 - g. Assistance of administration/owner to help improve structure quality.
 5. When the site and the mentor feel the site is ready (more than 3 months but before November, 2009) a second assessment will be completed. This assessment will be turned into GSC-W who will assign the Diamond rating.
 6. A certificate suitable for framing will be given to each site with their diamond rating.
 7. With permission, a news release, listing on the website, and other public announcements will be made.
 8. A cash merit award based on the size of the site and the number of Diamonds will be given to those who are 2 Diamonds and above.
 9. A cash bonus for those who service DHS families will be awarded in December based on the number of children with DHS subsidy and the rating level of 2 Diamonds or above.
 10. The steps will then be repeated as funding allows with 2 years working on the next improvement plan.



Note: GSC-W is working in collaboration with The Skillman Good Neighborhoods Initiative and the United Way Learning Hubs. Any trainings and networking occurring through these other great projects in the neighborhood are approved activities for the purposes of the QRIS. Mentors and Education Specialists that are already working with sites within the qualified zip codes will remain the same and receive the additional support of the GSC-W in their work.