

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A QUALITY ACCREDITED PROGRAM?

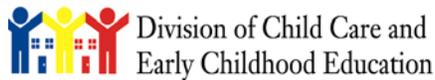
- ✓ Your program will be identified with Approval status maintained on file by DCCECE for access to parents and the public and through our website.
- ✓ Your program will be enhanced by the recognition of professional organization/business status.
- ✓ Your program and staff will be recognized in the Arkansas Early Childhood Newsletter, our website and at professional conferences for achieving higher standards.
- ✓ Employees of the program will develop a sense of pride and professionalism in the everyday tasks that they perform.
- ✓ Families who enroll their children in approved programs are eligible for a 20% refundable child care credit on their state income taxes.
- ✓ Your program will be eligible to apply for a Quality Accreditation Grant.
- ✓ Grant amounts range from \$600 to \$1200 depending upon the size of the program.

DIVISION OF CHILDCARE & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

LICENSING AND ACCREDITATION

PO BOX 1437, SLOT S-150
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72203
501/682-8590 OR FAX: 682-2317
www.arkansas.gov/childcare



Department of Human Services

Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education



WHAT IS THE ARKANSAS QUALITY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM?

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In 1993, the Arkansas Legislature enacted a bill to provide an opportunity for child care facilities to receive Approval from the State of Arkansas in recognition of quality programming. The Department of Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education is responsible for the implementation, administration and regulation of the Arkansas Quality Accreditation Program.

QUALITY ACCREDITATION

This accreditation system is a voluntary program for all licensed preschools, child care centers, and school-age child care programs.

The Environment Rating Scales are used to gather information about the program by looking at seven broad areas.

- Space and Furnishings
- Basic Care
- Language and Reasoning
- Learning Activities
- Interactions
- Program Structure
- Needs of parents and staff



HERE'S WHAT WE'LL DO TO ASSIST YOU

- ❖ Consultants are available at no charge through Childhood Services at Arkansas State University to come on-site to identify any areas which need improvement before quality is achieved. (1-888-429-1585 or chs.astate.edu)
- ❖ Enhancement Grants are available to assist with equipment and materials. A CDA Scholarship is available. No grants are guaranteed. www.arkansas.gov/childcare
- ❖ The Child Care Resource Center is available to assist in developing curriculum and educational aids. Copies of the Environment Rating Scales are also available. www.arkansas.gov/childcare

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

STEP 1: Obtain application packet.

STEP 2: Obtain a copy of the Environment Rating Scales to do a preliminary self-assessment to determine areas of your program you may need to improve. An average score of 4.5 or above on each sub-scale is necessary for accreditation.

Once the application is favorably reviewed, you will be contacted by Division staff to set up an appointment for an assessor to do an on-site evaluation.

LEADING THE WAY

When you achieve Quality Accreditation status, you will be part of a very special group in Arkansas.

Most important, you will know that you are striving to provide high-quality child care.