# Quality Counts California

## Quality Continuum Framework – Measured Quality Elements

### July 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>1 Point</th>
<th>2 Points</th>
<th>3 Points</th>
<th>4 Points</th>
<th>5 Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core I: Child Development and School Readiness</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Child Observation</td>
<td>▪ Not Required</td>
<td>▪ Program uses evidence-based child assessment or observation tool annually that covers all five domains of development</td>
<td>▪ Program uses valid and reliable child assessment or observation tool aligned with the most recent iteration of the <em>California Learning Foundations</em> twice a year</td>
<td>▪ Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) is administered twice a year, at minimum, and results are used to inform curriculum planning</td>
<td>▪ Program uses DRDP twice a year and uploads into DRDP Online or DR Access, and results are used to inform curriculum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core I: Child Development and School Readiness</td>
<td>▪ Meets Title 22 Regulations</td>
<td>▪ Health Screening Form (Community Care Licensing form LIC701 “Physician’s Report – Child Care Centers” or equivalent) used at entry, then: ▪ Annually OR ▪ Ensures vision and hearing screenings are conducted annually</td>
<td>▪ Program works with families to ensure screening of all children using a valid and reliable developmental screening tool at entry and as indicated by results thereafter AND ▪ Meets criteria from point level 2</td>
<td>▪ Program works with families to ensure screening of all children using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) at entry and as indicated by results thereafter AND ▪ Meets criteria from point level 2</td>
<td>▪ Program works with families to ensure screening of all children using the Asq and ASQ-Social Emotional, if indicated, at entry, then as indicated by results thereafter AND ▪ Program staff uses children’s screening results to make referrals and implement intervention strategies and adaptations as appropriate AND ▪ Meets criteria from point level 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core II: Teachers and Teaching</td>
<td>1 Point</td>
<td>2 Points</td>
<td>3 Points</td>
<td>4 Points</td>
<td>5 Points</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 3. Minimum Qualifications for Lead Teacher or Family Child Care Home (FCCH) | - Meets Title 22 Regulations  
  **Center:** 12 units of Early Childhood Education (ECE) or Child Development (CD)\(^1\)  
  **FCCH:** 16 hours of training on preventative health practices | - **Center:** 24 units of ECE or CD  
  **OR** Associate Teacher Permit  
  **FCCH:** 12 units of ECE or CD  
  **OR** Associate Teacher Permit | - 24 units of ECE or CD, plus 16 units of General Education  
  **OR** Teacher Permit  
  **AND**  
  21 hours of professional development (PD) annually | - Associate’s degree (AA/AS) in ECE or CD (or a closely related field)  
  **OR** AA/AS in any field plus 24 units of ECE or CD  
  **OR** Site Supervisor Permit  
  **AND**  
  21 hours of PD annually | - Bachelor’s degree (BA/BS) in ECE or CD (or a closely related field)  
  **OR** BA/BS in any field plus/with 24 units of ECE or CD  
  **OR** a master’s degree in ECE or CD  
  **OR** Program Director Permit  
  **AND**  
  21 hours of PD annually |
| Core II: Teachers and Teaching | - Not required | - Familiarity with CLASS for appropriate age group as available by one representative from the site | - Independent CLASS assessment by a reliable observer to inform the program’s PD or improvement plan  
  **OR**  
  Informal assessment and results used to inform Quality Improvement Plan and staff PD plan | - Independent CLASS assessment by a reliable observer with minimum CLASS scores:  
  **Pre-K:**  
  - Emotional Support – 5  
  - Instructional Support – 3  
  - Classroom Organization – 5  
  **Toddler:**  
  - Emotional & Behavioral Support – 5  
  - Engaged Support for Learning – 3.5  
  **Infant:**  
  - Responsive Caregiving – 5 | - Independent CLASS assessment by a reliable observer with minimum CLASS scores:  
  **Pre-K:**  
  - Emotional Support – 5.5  
  - Instructional Support – 3.5  
  - Classroom Organization – 5.5  
  **Toddler:**  
  - Emotional & Behavioral Support – 5.5  
  - Engaged Support for Learning – 4  
  **Infant:**  
  - Responsive Caregiving – 5.5 |

\(^1\) For all ECE or CD units, the core eight are desired, but not required.  
Note: Point values are not indicative of Tiers 1 through 5, but reflect a range of points that can be earned toward assigning a tier rating (see Total Point Range).
### Core III: Program and Environment

#### 5. Ratios and Group Size (Centers only beyond licensing regulations)

- **Center:** Title 22 Regulations
  - Infant ratio of 1:4
  - Toddler Option ratio of 1:6
  - Preschool ratio of 1:12
- **FCCH:** Title 22 Regulations (excluded from point values in ratio and group size)

- **Center:** Ratio:
  - Infant/Toddler – 4:16
  - Toddler – 3:18
  - Preschool – 3:36

- **FCCH:** Ratio:
  - Infant/Toddler – 3:12
  - Toddler – 2:12
  - Preschool – 2:24

### Core III: Program and Environment

#### 6. Director Qualifications (Centers only)

- 12 units ECE or CD, plus/with 3 units management or administration
- 24 units ECE or CD, plus 16 units General Education, plus/with 3 units management or administration
- AA/AS with 24 units ECE or CD, plus/with 6 units management or administration
- Master Teacher Permit
- Master’s degree with 30 units ECE or CD, including specialized courses, plus/with 8 units management or administration
- Site Supervisor Permit
- 21 hours of PD annually

### Total Point Ranges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>Common Tier 1</th>
<th>Local Tier 2</th>
<th>Common Tier 3</th>
<th>Common Tier 4</th>
<th>Local Tier 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Centers</strong></td>
<td>Blocked (6 points) – must meet all elements</td>
<td>7 to 16 points</td>
<td>17 to 22 points</td>
<td>23 to 26 points</td>
<td>27 points and above</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 elements for 30 points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FCCHs</strong></td>
<td>Blocked (4 points) – must meet all elements</td>
<td>5 to 9 points</td>
<td>10 to 13 points</td>
<td>14 to 17 points</td>
<td>18 points and above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 elements for 20 points</td>
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2 Local Tier 2: Local decision if blocked or points and if there are additional elements.

3 Local Tier 5: Local decision if there are additional elements included.

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