



# Quality Counts California

## Quality Continuum Framework – Measured Quality Elements

July 2023

Element	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	5 Points
Core I: Child Development and School Readiness  <b>1. Child Observation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not Required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program uses evidence-based child assessment or observation tool annually that covers all five domains of development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program uses valid and reliable child assessment or observation tool aligned with the most recent iteration of the <i>California Learning Foundations</i> twice a year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) is administered twice a year, at minimum, and results are used to inform curriculum planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program uses DRDP twice a year and uploads into DRDP Online or DR Access, and results are used to inform curriculum</li> </ul>
Core I: Child Development and School Readiness  <b>2. Developmental and Health Screenings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meets Title 22 Regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health Screening Form (Community Care Licensing form LIC701 “Physician’s Report – Child Care Centers” or equivalent) used at entry, then:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annually</li> <li>Ensures vision and hearing screenings are conducted annually</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>Meets criteria from point level 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>Meets criteria from point level 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>Program staff uses children’s screening results to make referrals and implement intervention strategies and adaptations as appropriate</li> <li>Meets criteria from point level 2</li> </ul>

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Element	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	5 Points
Core II: Teachers and Teaching  <b>3. Minimum Qualifications for Lead Teacher or Family Child Care Home (FCCH)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meets Title 22 Regulations</li> <li><b>Center:</b> 12 units of Early Childhood Education (ECE) or Child Development (CD)<sup>1</sup></li> <li><b>FCCH:</b> 16 hours of training on preventative health practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Center:</b> 24 units of ECE or CD</li> <li><b>OR</b> Associate Teacher Permit</li> <li><b>FCCH:</b> 12 units of ECE or CD</li> <li><b>OR</b> Associate Teacher Permit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24 units of ECE or CD, plus 16 units of General Education</li> <li><b>OR</b> Teacher Permit</li> <li><b>AND</b></li> <li>21 hours of professional development (PD) annually</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Associate's degree (AA/AS) in ECE or CD (or a closely related field) <b>OR</b> AA/AS in any field plus 24 units of ECE or CD</li> <li><b>OR</b> Site Supervisor Permit</li> <li><b>AND</b></li> <li>21 hours of PD annually</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bachelor's degree (BA/BS) in ECE or CD (or a closely related field)</li> <li><b>OR</b> BA/BS in any field plus/with 24 units of ECE or CD (or a master's degree in ECE or CD)</li> <li><b>OR</b> Program Director Permit</li> <li><b>AND</b></li> <li>21 hours of PD annually</li> </ul>
Core II: Teachers and Teaching  <b>4. Effective Teacher-Child Interactions: Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Familiarity with CLASS for appropriate age group as available by one representative from the site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent CLASS assessment by a reliable observer to inform the program's PD or improvement plan</li> <li><b>OR</b></li> <li>Informal assessment and results used to inform Quality Improvement Plan and staff PD plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent CLASS assessment by a reliable observer with minimum CLASS scores:</li> <li><b>Pre-K:</b></li> <li>Emotional Support – 5</li> <li>Instructional Support – 3</li> <li>Classroom Organization – 5</li> <li><b>Toddler:</b></li> <li>Emotional &amp; Behavioral Support – 5</li> <li>Engaged Support for Learning – 3.5</li> <li><b>Infant:</b></li> <li>Responsive Caregiving – 5</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent CLASS assessment by a reliable observer with minimum CLASS scores:</li> <li><b>Pre-K:</b></li> <li>Emotional Support – 5.5</li> <li>Instructional Support – 3.5</li> <li>Classroom Organization – 5.5</li> <li><b>Toddler:</b></li> <li>Emotional &amp; Behavioral Support – 5.5</li> <li>Engaged Support for Learning – 4</li> <li><b>Infant:</b></li> <li>Responsive Caregiving – 5.5</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> 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).

Element	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	5 Points
Core III: Program and Environment  <b>5. Ratios and Group Size</b> (Centers only beyond licensing regulations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Center:</b> Title 22 Regulations Infant ratio of 1:4 Toddler Option ratio of 1:6 Preschool ratio of 1:12</li> <li>▪ <b>FCCH:</b> Title 22 Regulations (excluded from point values in ratio and group size)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Center:</b> Ratio: Group Size Infant/Toddler – 4:16 Toddler – 3:18 Preschool – 3:36</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Center:</b> Ratio: Group Size Infant/Toddler – 3:12 Toddler – 2:12 Preschool – 2:24</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Center:</b> Ratio: Group Size Infant/Toddler – 3:12 or 2:8 Toddler – 2:10 Preschool – 3:24 or 2:20</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Center:</b> Ratio: Group Size Infant/Toddler – 3:9 or better Toddler – 3:12 or better Preschool – 1:8 ratio and group size of no more than 20</li> </ul>
Core III: Program and Environment  <b>6. Director Qualifications</b> (Centers only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 12 units ECE or CD, plus/with 3 units management or administration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 24 units ECE or CD, plus 16 units General Education, plus/with 3 units management or administration</li> <li>▪ <b>OR</b></li> <li>▪ Master Teacher Permit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AA/AS with 24 units ECE or CD, plus/with 6 units management or administration and 2 units in supervision</li> <li>▪ <b>OR</b> Site Supervisor Permit</li> <li>▪ <b>AND</b></li> <li>▪ 21 hours of PD annually</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BA/BS with 24 units ECE or CD, plus/with 8 units management or administration</li> <li>▪ <b>OR</b> Program Director Permit</li> <li>▪ <b>AND</b></li> <li>▪ 21 hours of PD annually</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Master's degree with 30 units ECE or CD, including specialized courses, plus/with 8 units management or administration</li> <li>▪ <b>OR</b> Administrative Credential</li> <li>▪ <b>AND</b></li> <li>▪ 21 hours of PD annually</li> </ul>

### Total Point Ranges

Program Type	Common Tier 1	Local Tier 2 <sup>2</sup>	Common Tier 3	Common Tier 4	Local Tier 5 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Centers</b> 6 elements for 30 points	<b>Blocked</b> (6 points) – must meet all elements	7 to 16 points	17 to 22 points	23 to 26 points	27 points and above
<b>FCCHs</b> 4 elements for 20 points	<b>Blocked</b> (4 points) – must meet all elements	5 to 9 points	10 to 13 points	14 to 17 points	18 points and above

<sup>2</sup> Local Tier 2: Local decision if blocked or points and if there are additional elements.

<sup>3</sup> Local Tier 5: Local decision if there are additional elements included.