

Let's All Focus
on Quality
Child Care!



Parents and providers can work together to create a community dedicated to raising the standard of child care in Maine. As a parent here's how you can do your part:

- * If you already have quality daycare, ask your provider if they are participating in the Quality for ME program and let them know that the standards are important to you.
- * If you're looking for new child care, be sure to consider programs that are participating in this beneficial program.



For more information, contact:

Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services

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Fax: (207) 287-6156

QualityforME@maine.gov

www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/qualityforme.htm

Maine Roads to Quality

Phone: (888) 900-0055wFax: (207) 780-5817

muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/pages/contactmrtq.htm

Quality for ME has been endorsed by the Maine Child Care Advisory Council.

Parent
Brochure



Maine's Child Care Quality Rating System



Here's how to find
the best
child care in Maine.

When child care is the best it can be, everyone benefits.

Early childhood is a wonderful time, filled with potential to learn and grow. In fact, the first five years of life is the most critical period in a child's learning and emotional development. By kindergarten, 85% of a child's intellectual, emotional and cognitive functions are formed, laying the foundation for adulthood. That's why Maine is stepping up for children with a program designed to help you find the best child care available for these crucial years.

While all early care programs in Maine must be licensed, programs that participate in Quality for ME provide a level of care beyond what is required. These programs are committed to building brighter futures for children and families creating environments that nurture and respect children while preparing them to succeed in school.

Peace of Mind for Parents

As a parent, you know how important it is to select the right child care provider. There's no greater comfort than knowing your children are happy in the care of loving, trustworthy people. The Quality for ME program gives you a way to easily identify high-quality providers – so you can make an informed decision and enjoy peace of mind.



Every Step Counts

Child-care programs that participate in Quality for Me volunteer to have their quality assessed on a 4-step rating scale. They must meet the requirements for each step before moving to a higher level. Every step is an important quality measure based on the following criteria:

- Licensing history
- Learning environment
- Program evaluation
- Staff development
- Administrative policies and procedures
- Family involvement
- Community resources
- Child observation

Save on Taxes

Most parents know they can receive a deduction on their income taxes when they participate in an accredited child-care program. What's even more exciting about Maine's Quality for Me program is that you will receive twice the tax credits for sending your child to a provider that has completed all four steps of the program. By helping your child, you save on Maine taxes as well.