QUALITY STARS MISSISSIPPI'S QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM

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ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY		• Center has an employee handbook	- Director completed "Child Care as a Business" course - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) completed, on file and signed by the child care director and the designated service agency. Documentation of one appropriate referral and/or assessment is on file for a child or staff member	-Documentation with implementation of a Professional Development Plan for staff	- Developmental checklist for each child is implemented and documented - A transition plan with Local Education Agency for children entering kindergarten is implemented and documented - Director to peer mentor at a minimum of 2 hours per month established and documented for the purpose of helping a facility obtain a higher rating in Quality Stars
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT		- Director receives twenty (20) hours of annual staff development training -Fifteen (15) hours annually of staff development for full time teaching staff by approved training entities per child care licensing regulations will be documented for each staff with no in-house hours being allowed to be counted in the fifteen (15) hours total	- Director holds a current DECCD Director's Credential, or a credential approved by MDHS/DECCD, or an associate or higher degree in child development, early childhood education or a related field -Conduct and document monthly staff development meetings - At least one staff member holds a current Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher degree in child development, early childhood education or related field - Eighteen (18) hours of annual staff development training with ten (10) hours of training specific to the age of children in their care	- Director holds an Associate Degree in Child Development Technology or Early Childhood Education or higher degree; Bachelor's Degree in Child Development, Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education, Elementary Education or a related field with eighteen (18) credit hours of Early Childhood courses -Fifteen percent (15%) of staff has a current Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher degree - Twenty (20) hours of annual staff development training with ten (10) hours of training specific to the age of children in their care	- Director holds a Bachelor's Degree or higher in Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education, Child Development, Elementary Education or related field with eighteen (18) credit hours of Early Childhood courses - Twenty-five percent (25%) of full-time teachers has a current Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher degree - Twenty-five (25) hours of annual staff development training with ten (10) hours of training specific to the age of children in their care
LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS		- Teachers use weekly lesson plans - Learning Centers are being utilized in the classrooms for all children (except infants) - Minimum total scores of 3.00 on the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-R (ECERS-R) and/or the Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale-R (ITERS-R)	- Director trained in Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines - Minimum total scores of 3.6 on the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-R (ECERS-R) and/or the Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale-R (ITERS-R)	- All teaching staff of infants, toddlers, three (3) and four (4) year old children trained specific to the age of children in their care to use the Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines including the use of on-going child assessment as described in the Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines - Minimum total scores of 4.1 on the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-R (ECERS-R) and/or the Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale-R (ITERS-R)	- Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines fully implemented in all classrooms (infants – 4 year olds) - On-going child assessments documented and implemented in all classrooms (infants – 4 year olds) - Minimum total scores of 5.1 on the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-R (ECERS-R) and/or the Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale-R (ITERS-R)
PARENT INVOLVEMENT		- A designated bulletin board for parent communication - Quarterly communication to parents through a newsletter - Monthly calendar distribution to parents highlighting classroom activities and home learning activities -Annual documented parent-teacher conference	- Weekly notes to parents describing the activities of the week with copies maintained on file - Parent educations trainings offered and documented annually - Facility provides a parent/family lending library for parents	- Parent/family volunteer program is implemented and proof of participation is documented - Parent/family resource center is part of the facility's services	- Documentation showing that parent/teacher conferences are held at least twice a year - Monthly newsletter distributed to parents
EVALUATION	- Center holds a current Mississippi Child Care License	-Director's self-assessment completed on file with a plan of self-improvement that indicates actions to address deficient areas that need improvement - Annual Staff evaluations on each staff with the director/supervisor, signed and dated by both parties - Center must meet requirements of a 1-Star center	- Center must meet requirements of a 2-Star center	- Parent/family survey to rate performance of staff completed and on file - Center must meet requirements of a 3-Star center	- Center must meet requirements of a 4-Star center