



EARLY CARE & EDUCATION CENTER STANDARDS 100 POINTS

Domain: Family and Community Partnerships

Maximum 20 Points

Rationale: Family engagement and reciprocal family-provider relationships are fundamental to high quality early care and education services. This dimension of practice emphasizes ongoing, bi-directional communication between families and programs. Meaningful family engagement in early care and education programs requires attention and sensitivity to the needs of all families. Further, collaboration between child care programs and schools/other agencies assists programs in accessing resources to meet the needs of young children and their families.

Categories: Communication (FC), Support (FS), Community Partnerships (FP)

Code	Standard	Points
FC1 Maximum 2 points	Program welcomes all children and their families with procedures that embrace inclusion and diversity.	2 points
FC2 Maximum 4 points	Each classroom provides regular written correspondence with families. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For classrooms with children predominately 0-36 months, correspondence is individualized and provided daily • For classrooms with children predominately 37 months and older, correspondence is group and provided at least weekly 	2 points 2 points
FC3 Maximum 1 point	Program conducts conferences with families at least twice annually.	1 point
FS1 Maximum 2 points	Program partners with families with children with diverse needs.	2 points

Code	Standard	Points
FS2 Maximum 2 points	Program systematically gathers information from families and uses data to inform program planning annually.	2 points
FS3 Maximum 1 point	Program implements a variety of family-centered events annually.	1 point
FS4 Maximum 6 points	Program supports transitions for families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Into the program • Within the program • Out of the program 	2 points 2 points 2 points
FP1 Maximum 1 point	Program develops and maintains active relationships with schools.	1 point
FP2 Maximum 1 point	Program develops and maintains active relationships with community-based agencies.	1 point

Domain: QUALIFICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Maximum 30

Rationale: A well-prepared teaching and administrative staff are essential to high quality early care and education. Thoughtfully planned professional development linked to effective supervision and evaluation practices provide ongoing support to staff in meeting the needs of young children and their families.

Categories: Education (QE), Training (QT)

Code	Standard	Points
QE1 Maximum 4 points	Staff functioning as Administrator completes the Delaware Administrator Credential and is qualified through Delaware First as an Administrator. <i>* Effective July 1, 2015, the Delaware Administrator Credential will be an Essential Standard for Star 4 and Star 5 programs when they move up or re-verify.</i>	4 points
QE2 Maximum 3 points	Staff functioning as the Administrator utilizes the <i>Delaware Early Childhood Career Lattice</i> for professional development planning and achieves Step 8 or above.	3 points
QE3 Maximum 2 points	Teaching staff complete appropriate credentials. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one staff member attains a Delaware credential (excluding Administrator) • 25% of staff completes one Delaware credential 	1 point 2 points
QE4 Maximum 9 points	Program staff utilizes the <i>Delaware Early Childhood Career Lattice</i> for career planning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of staff achieves Step 4 or above on the <i>Delaware Early Childhood Career Lattice</i> • 30% of staff achieves Step 7 or above on the <i>Delaware Early Childhood Career Lattice</i> • 20% of staff achieves Step 8 or above on the <i>Delaware Early Childhood Career Lattice</i> 	2 points 3 points 4 points
QE5 Maximum 3 points	Person functioning as Curriculum Coordinator utilizes the <i>Delaware Early Childhood Career Lattice</i> for professional development planning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieves Step 7 or above on the <i>Delaware Early Childhood Career Lattice</i> • Achieves Step 8 or above on the <i>Delaware Early Childhood Career Lattice</i> <i>*Effective July 1, 2016, the Curriculum and Assessment Credential will be an Essential Standard for the Curriculum Coordinator for Star 4 and Star 5 programs when they move up or re-verify.</i>	2 points 3 points
QT1 Maximum 3 points	Annual training hours are quality assured. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For each staff, 50% or more of all training hours completed are quality assured • For each staff, 75% or more of all training hours completed are quality assured 	2 points 3 points

Code	Standard	Points
QT2 Maximum 5 points	Program implements a system of staff evaluation that integrates professional development needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual evaluation for each staff person that includes observations, written feedback, and a self-assessment completed by staff using the <i>Delaware Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals</i> • Program requires staff to use annual competency-based evaluation and self-assessment to create annual <i>Individual Professional Development Plans</i> that integrates professional development needs 	2 points 3 points
QT3 Maximum 1 point	Program completes an annual <i>Facility Professional Development Plan</i> to compile information on staff professional development needs.	1 point

Domain: MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Maximum 20 points

Rationale: Effective management and administrative practices create the infrastructure for the provision of high quality early care and education. Well-managed programs facilitate quality through lower rates of staff turn-over, effective supervision, and appropriate allocation of personnel resources.

Categories: Personnel Management (MP), Operations and Administration (MO), Fiscal Management (MF)

Code	Standard	Points
MP1 Maximum 3 points	Program arranges regular, paid planning time (minimum one hour) and access to resources for at least one staff member per classroom when they are not responsible for children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every 2 weeks • Weekly 	2 points 3 points
MO1 Maximum 2 points	Program implements a risk management plan.	2 points
MO2 Maximum 3 points	Program provides access to the following benefits for employees: Paid vacation, paid sick time, paid holidays, retirement, insurance (health or other). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two selected • Three or more 	2 points 3 points
MO3 Maximum 2 points	Program conducts required staff meetings that are open to all staff. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly • Monthly 	1 point 2 points
MO4 Maximum 4 points	Program retains 75% of classroom staff on a program year basis. Partial points allowed for efforts to improve or maintain retention rates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program retains 70% of classroom staff. • Program retains 65% of classroom staff. 	4 points 3 points 2 points
MO5 Maximum 4 points	Program provides staff access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comfortable adult facilities and storage • Administrative computer with internet • Staff computer in staff space with internet 	1 point 1 point 2 points

Code	Standard	Points
MF1 Maximum 2 points	Program implements a system for fiscal management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual operating budget with income and expense figures • Program reviews annual operating budget quarterly, adjusts as needed, and files copies for later review 	1 point 1 point

Domain: LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND CURRICULUM

Maximum 30 points

Rationale: The provision of effective, developmentally appropriate learning environments is essential to high quality early care and education practice. The foundation for appropriate learning environments is positive interactions between teachers and children. From this foundation, teachers intentionally plan appropriate experiences for young children that address key areas of learning and development.

Categories: Classroom Environment (LE), Observation & Assessment (LO), Curriculum Planning & Implementation (LC)

Code	Standard	Points										
REQUIRED	Program has an Environment Rating Scale (ERS) assessment and achieves the following classroom scores for classrooms selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 3.40 (Star Level 3) • Minimum 4.40 (Star Level 4) • Minimum 5.40 (Star Level 5) 											
LE1 Maximum 3 points	Program utilizes a system of continuity of care that includes primary care throughout the day.	3 points										
LE2 Maximum 3 points	Program minimizes transitions for children throughout the program year.	3 points										
LE3 Maximum 4 points	Program implements lower ratios: <table style="margin-left: 20px; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Infants (under 12 months)</td> <td>1:3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Young Toddlers (12-24 months)</td> <td>1:5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Older Toddlers (24-36 months)</td> <td>1:7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Young Preschoolers (36-48 months)</td> <td>1:9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Older Preschoolers (48-60 months)</td> <td>1:11</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implements for Infants • Implements for Toddlers • Implements for Preschoolers 	Infants (under 12 months)	1:3	Young Toddlers (12-24 months)	1:5	Older Toddlers (24-36 months)	1:7	Young Preschoolers (36-48 months)	1:9	Older Preschoolers (48-60 months)	1:11	2 points 1 points 1 points
Infants (under 12 months)	1:3											
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Code	Standard	Points
LO1 Maximum 3 points	Program implements a child developmental screening for all infants, toddlers, and preschoolers enrolled annually. <i>*Effective January 1, 2015, this will be an Essential Standard for Star 4 and Star 5 programs when they move up or re-verify.</i>	3 points
LO2 Maximum 3 points	Program observes individual children’s progress on an ongoing basis and documents progress at least twice annually.	3 points
LO3 Maximum 3 points	Program implements a formative child assessment for all infants, toddlers, and preschoolers a minimum of two times each year. <i>*Effective January 1, 2016, this will be an Essential Standard for Star 4 and Star 5 programs when they move up or re-verify.</i>	3 points
LC1 Maximum 3 points	Program implements a written comprehensive curriculum that is aligned with the <i>Delaware Early Learning Foundations</i> for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers enrolled. <i>*Effective July 1, 2016, this will be an Essential Standard for Star 4 and Star 5 programs when they move up or re-verify.</i>	3 points
LC2 Maximum 2 points	Program implements a supplemental curriculum to support children’s literacy, math, social-emotional or healthy lifestyles. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 supplemental curriculum • 2 or more supplemental curricula 	1 point 2 points
LC3 Maximum 3 points	Program uses information from children’s observations, the comprehensive curriculum and formative assessment, the <i>Delaware Early Learning Foundations</i> , and families to design daily activities, lesson plans, and individualized goal plans. <i>*Effective July 1, 2016, this will be an Essential Standard for Star 5 programs when they move up or re-verify.</i>	3 points
LC4 Maximum 3 points	Program implements instructional and/or environmental adaptations that support the learning for children with diverse needs, including those with identified disabilities, dual language learners, identified behavioral health needs, and/or specialized health needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those with identified disabilities • Those with behavioral and/or health needs, dual language learners, migrant, homeless, neglected, delinquent, low-income, and children of all races and national origins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One Selected ○ Two Selected 	1 point 1 point 2 points

Early Care & Education Centers with a School-Age component must complete one of the following additional standards in order to verify at Star 3; two additional standards in order to verify at Star 4; and three of the additional standards in order to verify at Star 5.

- SA1 25% of school-age staff completes School-Age Credential
- SA2 Program implements developmental youth assessment for school-age youth annually
- SA3 Program uses youth assessment to inform goals and lesson planning
- SA4 Program has plan for daily and weekly activities appropriate to all ages

Assessment Method requirements can be found in the School-Age Standards Indicator Manual under QE3, LO2, LO3, and LC2, respectively.

Star Rating	Required Points
Star 3	40-59
Star 4	60-79
Star 5	80-100