

Quality Steps For Home Providers



Quality Steps for Home Providers is a program for home child care providers to enhance the quality and capacity of child care for children ages 0-5. Enrollment is available to registered home providers in Plymouth, Sioux, Cherokee, and Lyon counties. Funding is available to home providers who are committed to improving the quality of care they provide.

Recognizing current accomplishments as well as encouragement to set and attain goals for each program is the intent of this program. The following information will explain the program and how to move 'up the steps' to enhance quality in the child care program.

Please look through this packet, look through your schedule and give me a call. I can't wait to get you going so you can receive great incentives that will benefit your child care home!

Deb Baldwin
418 South Marion
Remsen, IA 51050
(712) 786-3487 or
(800) 859-2025
dbaldwin@midsioux.org

www.n-e-c-i.org click on Home Providers

Quality Steps Enrollment FY12

<i>Child Care Business Owner</i>	<i>Second provider (if applicable)</i>
<i>Address</i>	
<i>City</i>	
<i>Zip</i>	
<i>Phone</i>	
<i>Email</i>	

Child Care Business Owner signature _____ *Date* _____

Second Provider (if applicable) _____ *Date* _____

Congratulations on your decision to participate in *Quality Steps for Home Providers!*

Mail this sheet (along with the policy form) to:

Deb Baldwin, Child Care Nurse Consultant
418 South Marion
Remsen, IA 51050

Or email: dbaldwin@midsioux.org

Visit us online www.nwice.org and click on the Home Providers tab!

Quality Steps Policy FY12

Once enrolled in the *Quality Steps program*, the Quality Steps representative will visit you to go over the points that you have accumulated throughout the year.

After having completed your visit and met the requirements of the program, you may make a claim to receive incentive money. You may purchase items that will be beneficial to your daycare that have received **PRIOR APPROVAL** from the Quality Steps representative. Please contact the Quality Steps representative **BEFORE** you purchase items to ensure that the funds are still available and also to ensure that the items you are purchasing are approved.

The fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th each year, so claims must be received by June 15th to be eligible for processing. Home providers will be able to redeem up to \$1200 dollars in a year. Once the incentive money is received you will be asked to purchase the items and submit receipts to the Quality Steps representative.

(You must remain in child care for **6 months** after receiving funds or equipment from *Quality Steps* or you will be required to **refund** the money or return the merchandise purchased.)

I, _____, fully understand the policies of this program.

Provider Signature

Date

Quality Steps Representative

Quality Steps Stages (for provider)

Stage		
One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete State Registration • Complete Nurse Consultant Child Care Business-Partnership Agreement and Survey • Complete Injury Prevention Checklist with Child Care Nurse Consultant 	\$150
Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet requirements of Stage One • Become certified with Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) • Certified with Infant, Child and Adult CPR, First Aid, Mandatory Reporter • Complete one of the following series trainings: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Program and Infant Toddler Care (PITC) b. Creative Curriculum for Family Child Care c. Business Basics d. ChildNet 	\$300
Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet requirements of Stage Two • Complete ChildNet series training if not previously completed • Become ChildNet certified • Apply for Quality Rating System (QRS) level 2 or higher 	\$450
Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet requirements of Stage Three • Complete Injury Prevention Checklist, Child Record Review, or Health & Safety Assessment as determined by the Child Care Nurse Consultant • Complete approved Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale/Family Daycare Rating Scale (FDCRS/FCCERS-R) series training • Complete one of the following series trainings not yet completed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Program and Infant Toddler Care (PITC) b. Creative Curriculum for Family Child Care c. Business Basics d. Beyond Business Basics • Become a member of one of the following professional organizations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. National Association of the Education for Young Children b. National After School Association c. National Association for Family Child Care • Apply for QRS level 3 or higher 	\$600
Five	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet requirements of Stage Four • Complete a Child Record Review or Health & Safety Assessment as determined by Child Care Nurse Consultant • Complete one of the following series trainings not yet completed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Program and Infant Toddler Care (PITC) b. Creative Curriculum for Family Child Care c. Business Basics d. Beyond Business Basics • Complete Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale score sheet and self-assessment • Complete FCCERS/FDCERS Child Development Home Improvement Plan • Orientation is provided for new parents and annual conferences are held • Maintain QRS level 3 or higher 	\$800
Six	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet requirements of Stage Five • Complete Health and Safety Assessment by Child Care Nurse Consultant • Complete one of the following series trainings not yet completed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Program and Infant Toddler Care (PITC) b. Creative Curriculum for Family Child Care c. Business Basics d. Beyond Business Basics • Verify implementation of Creative Curriculum for Family Child Care with Northwest Early Childhood Iowa • Complete Program for Infant and Toddler Care series training if not done previously • Onsite FCCERS assessment by Iowa State University • Maintain QRS level 3 or higher 	\$1200

Explanation of Requirements

Child and Adult Care Food Program

The goal of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is to provide nutritious meals to children, introduce them to a variety of foods, promote good eating habits, and provide opportunities for them to learn about food. You are reimbursed for much of the money you spend to serve nutritious meals and snacks to the children. (800-859-2025 ask for Clydene Canady)

Child Care Nurse Consultant Tools – (Business-Partnership Agreement and Survey, Injury Prevention Checklist, Child Record Review, Health & Safety Assessment) The Nurse Consultant serving your county has the forms and will assist you with completing these documents by completing a home visit for each one. (800-859-2025 ask for Deb Baldwin)

ChildNet Certification

To be eligible for ChildNet certification you must complete the ChildNet training series and be 100% compliant with Iowa DHS Child Development Home Guidelines. A CCR&R Home Consultant will visit your program to review the DHS Guidelines and review how you have implemented the best practices learned in ChildNet. (800-859-2025 ask for Heather Hinds)

Quality Rating System

The Quality Rating System is a program that offers providers a guided way to improve the quality of child care they provide. As steps are completed, the provider moves up in levels and is awarded a “star” for each level. Participation shows parents and the community that a provider is committed to providing quality child care—and is working toward improving the quality of care. Providers may be eligible for achievement bonuses and grants through the Community Empowerment Area. (800-859-2025 ask for Heather Hinds)

Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale/ Family Day Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS/FDCRS)

Environment rating scales for child care homes are nationally recognized scales that assess the quality of early childhood programs. Home providers can earn points in the Quality Rating System by attending a 4 session series taught by ISU Extension on an ERS appropriate to the care provided. (800-859-2025 ask for Sarah Smith)

Program for Infant and Toddler Care

The goal of the Program for Infant Toddler Care (PITC) is to help caregivers recognize the crucial importance of giving tender, loving care and assisting in the infants’ intellectual development through an attentive reading of child’s cues. The 40 hour-4 module series covers 19 topical areas. There is a \$250 stipend for completing all 4 modules along with 2 visits with the PITC specialist. There is a 5th module that is available and a \$50 stipend is offered if completed. (800-859-2025 ask for Sarah Smith)

Creative Curriculum for Family Daycare

This curriculum presents providers with concrete strategies and approaches for implementing developmentally appropriate child care programs in their homes. It is an environmentally-based curriculum, founded on child development theory. (712-707-9599 ask for Takysia Larsen)

Business Basics

Business Basics is a course designed specifically for home providers. It consists of three hands-on sessions. It covers record-keeping, taxes, contracts and policies. Each participant takes home a supply of organizational materials and books. (800-859-2025 ask for Sarah Smith)

Professional Organizations - (National Association for Family Child Care, National Association for the Education of Young Children, National After School Association) Membership in any one of the above organizations is a great way to connect with other providers across the country to promote excellence and professionalism in your child care program. Support from other members and access to a variety of resources will help you work toward a quality child care program. Being a member in a state affiliate of a national organization is also permissible.