



## QRIS State Profile: Tennessee

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
<p>The voluntary <b>Star-Quality Child Care Program</b> recognizes child care providers that meet a higher standard of quality. Once qualified for this program, providers can receive one, two, or three stars to place on their licenses. Each star shows that a provider meets increasingly higher standards.</p>	
<b>CONTACTS</b>	
<b>QRIS Name</b>	Star-Quality Child Care Program
<b>Organization</b>	Tennessee Department of Human Services
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.tennessee.gov/humanserv/adfam/ccrcsq.html">http://www.tennessee.gov/humanserv/adfam/ccrcsq.html</a>
<b>RATING LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT METHODS</b>	
<b>Levels</b>	<p><b>Star-Quality Child Care Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Complies with licensing regulations</li> <li>■ One star</li> <li>■ Two stars</li> <li>■ Three stars</li> </ul>
<b>Rating Assignment Method</b>	<p><b>Combination:</b>            All licensed and approved child care providers in Tennessee are evaluated on the quality standards. Providers are rated on each standard and given a report card with the results.</p> <p>Eligible providers can participate in the Star-Quality program, which is voluntary. Providers meet the first level by complying with licensing regulations. To determine the star level, one–three points are given for each area of compliance with standards. One point is added to the rating score if the provider is accredited.</p>

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Component	State Details
<b>Use of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Other Assessments</b>	ERS are used for the Program Assessment standards. Rating is based on average scores.
<b>Program Assessments Included in QRIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R)</li> <li>■ Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale- Revised (ITERS-R)</li> <li>■ School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS)</li> <li>■ Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale- Revised (FCCERS-R)</li> </ul>
<b>QRIS QUALITY STANDARDS</b>	
<b>QRIS Quality Standards: Categories and Web Site</b>	<p>There are separate sets of standards for child care centers and FCC homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Director qualifications (for centers only)</li> <li>■ Professional development</li> <li>■ Developmental learning</li> <li>■ Parent/family involvement</li> <li>■ Ratio and group size</li> <li>■ Staff compensation (for centers only)</li> <li>■ Program assessment</li> <li>■ Business management (for FCC only)</li> </ul> <p><i>Star-Quality Child Care Program: Report Card for Child Care Centers</i>  <a href="http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/adfam/star-centers.pdf">http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/adfam/star-centers.pdf</a></p> <p><i>Star-Quality Child Care Program: Report Card for Family and Group Child Care Homes</i>  <a href="http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/adfam/star-family&amp;group.pdf">http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/adfam/star-family&amp;group.pdf</a></p>
<b>Programs Eligible to Participate in QRIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Child care centers</li> <li>■ Group child care homes</li> <li>■ Family child care homes</li> <li>■ Early Head Start programs</li> <li>■ Head Start programs</li> <li>■ Pre-kindergarten programs</li> <li>■ School-age programs</li> </ul>

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<b>Use of Accreditation</b>	To determine the star level, 1–3 points are given for each area of compliance with standards. One point is added to the rating score if the provider is accredited.
<b>Accreditation Organizations Accepted for QRIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ National Association for the Education of Young Children, Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation</li> <li>■ National Association for Family Child Care</li> <li>■ Other accrediting bodies approved by the Department of Human Services</li> </ul>
<b>FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Financial Incentives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Tiered subsidy reimbursement</li> <li>■ Scholarships to attend academic courses toward an early childhood certificate or degree</li> <li>■ Text book support and payment of CDA credentialing fees provided through Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Information</b>	The Child Care Evaluation and Report Card Program is required for all licensed and approved child care providers in Tennessee. During the process of renewing a license, the State evaluates a provider on several areas of quality.