

# Baseline Quality Assessment Results

## Introduction

After a child care centre has undergone an assessment with the SK Quality Tool, it is important to understand what to do with the results. This document provides information to understand the impact of the assessment, share the assessment results with relevant parties, identify areas of success, and set goals for improvement.

## Impact

Completing a quality assessment and using the results to identify follow-up actions can have a significant and positive impact on the children who attend the program.

One of the key benefits of assessing a child care centre's program is that it creates awareness of current strengths as well as ways to improve the program. This intentional program improvement can provide an even better experience for children and help them achieve their full potential. The assessment includes examining the qualifications and experience of the staff, the curriculum and learning materials provided, and the overall quality of care. A thorough assessment can identify areas where improvements are needed and by addressing these areas, the centre ensures that children receive high-quality care and education.

Assessing the early learning program can also have a positive impact on the staff. It can help to identify areas where they might need additional training or support and enable them to reflect on their practices and improve their skills. This can lead to greater job satisfaction, improved staff retention, and a more positive work culture.

Another benefit of assessment is that it assists in creating a culture of continuous improvement and learning within the centre. By regularly evaluating and reflecting on their practices, staff can identify areas for growth and development and work together to make meaningful changes that benefit children. This can lead to a more dynamic and vibrant program that is responsive to the needs of children and families.

Overall, assessing the early learning program of a child care centre is a crucial process that can have a significant impact on the quality of care and education that children receive. By promoting a culture of continuous improvement, centers can create an environment that supports the overall development, and wellbeing of children, and prepares them for success in school and life.

## Sharing Assessment Results

Once an assessment has been conducted, it is important to communicate the results to all relevant parties, such as, board of directors, staff members and possibly parents/guardians. This will involve understanding how to communicate the assessment findings in a clear and concise manner, highlighting the areas of strength, and outlining the areas that require improvement.

The first step will be to share the results of the assessment with the board of directors. Having a dedicated time to sit with the board of directors and discuss the results of the assessment conducted in the child care facility is an important step in ensuring that the facility is providing quality care to the children in its care. This can involve explaining

the assessment process, and how the results show successes and areas for improvements for the centre. It is important that the board be involved in this process as they are the licensee of the centre.

Sharing the results of an assessment can be a positive and productive experience. It provides an opportunity for the facility to showcase its commitment to providing quality care to the children in its care and to demonstrate its ongoing efforts to improve services. Presenting the results in a clear and concise manner can help the board of directors understand the indicators of quality and their role in supporting quality improvement. This can lead to constructive discussions and collaboration between the board and the facility staff.

Furthermore, this dedicated time can be used to discuss strategies and interventions for addressing any areas of concern identified by the assessment. This may involve discussing potential resources and support services that can be provided to the staff, the roles and responsibilities to complete the identified actions, as well as outlining a plan for monitoring progress and evaluating the effectiveness of the actions put in place.

## **Celebrate Successes**

Presenting the results can also be an opportunity for the facility to celebrate successes and achievements. By highlighting the positive outcomes of the assessment, the facility can demonstrate its dedication to the children's well-being and development. This is an important step as it helps to motivate staff, build morale, and reinforce the positive aspects of the program. Celebrating successes can be achieved through various means, such as holding a staff meeting or sending out a newsletter.

## **Identify Improvements**

The assessment process is designed to support the centre by also identifying areas of improvement that will help you enhance services. Working together as a team to brainstorm and problem solve together will enable the centre to identify innovative and practical actions to build quality in the early learning program.

The assessment will also help you to benchmark the centre's performance against industry standards and best practices. This will give you a better understanding of where the centre stands and what you need to do to improve its performance.

## **Making Short-Term and Long-Term Goals**

The assessment can help the centre to set short-term and long-term goals.

Short-term goals may include improving communication between staff and parents or changing practices with regard to interactions with children. These goals are designed to provide more immediate benefits to the centre and its children and help improve the quality of care provided.

Long-term goals, on the other hand, may include increasing staff certification levels, training staff to use a developmental screening/assessment tool and share results with families, or working with families to build awareness of cultures and how to incorporate cultural materials into the centres in meaningful ways. These goals require careful planning and execution and may take several years to achieve. However, they will improve the quality of care provided over the long term.

It's essential to regularly review and update the child care centre's goals to ensure that they remain relevant and achievable. By setting clear goals and working towards them, you can help the centre grow and provide the best possible care to children.

## Process

1. To support sharing and understanding of assessment results and development of an action plan in response to the results, share a copy of this handout and the Baseline Quality Assessment Information Sheet with all members of the board and staff.
2. Schedule meetings dedicated to reviewing the results and discussing responses and actions. Highlight areas where the centre did well and discuss what may have contributed to this success. Highlight areas where the centre may have scored lower and discuss barriers and suggestions.
3. Identify 1-3 priority areas of improvement and actions to support growth in this area. You may wish to use the following questions to help guide the discussion:
  - What are the most important areas to improve, and why? (establish priorities)
  - What are some specific goals you have for the centre in the next few months?
  - What are some specific goals you have for the centre in the next year or two?
  - How will you measure progress towards achieving the goals?
  - What resources do we need to achieve our goals? (refer to the ministry resource list to support)
  - What external factors may affect the ability to achieve the goals? How can these risks be mitigated?
  - How will the goals be communicated to staff, parents, and stakeholders?
  - How will achieving these goals benefit the children, their families, and the centre as a whole?
  - How will you communicate progress to staff, parents, and stakeholders?

## Conclusion

The SK Quality Tool is an early learning program assessment tool, specifically created for the Saskatchewan context.

Centres can use results to identify areas for improvement and create a plan focused on improving the early learning program. This can create a more positive and supportive work environment where everyone can thrive.

Research shows that quality education and care early in life lead to better health, education, and employment outcomes later in life.