Child Care and Early Education Heart Monitor

The Program Quality Indicators AI Version

PQIAI

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INDICATOR 1): Number of ECE III Educators (AA and BA Level

ECE Educators)

Al will review staff records to determine the number of staff who have these credentials in early childhood education. Record the number of ECEs with the appropriate qualifications and divide them by the total number of ECEs to come up with a percent for the center.

How to Measure:

Go to the **Staff Information Summary** form to obtain the data for this item. There are two columns that will do this. Under Certification: *Certification Date and Certification Level* (Highest ECE Level Certified). The certification date should be earlier than the date of the review and the actual level of the certification. In this case, we are interested in the number of (ECEIII's). Record the number of ECEIII working at least 65 hours/month. Then record the number of total teaching staff working at least 65 hours/month below as well. Teaching staff is defined as staff who have a responsibility for working with the children and the programming. Determine the percentage by dividing the total number of staff into the total number of ECEIII Certified teaching staff, ECEIII Certified teaching staff is the numerator, and the total number of teaching staff is the denominator (ECEIII/Total number of teaching staff x 100% = Percent).

Scoring for PQI 1:

Circle the Appropriate Level	1 = 0 to	2= 26 to 50%	3 = 51 to	4 = 76 to 100%
(%). Then based on the percentage,	you can find the	e score of 1-4 as p	er the chart belo	W.
Total ECEIII teaching staff divided by	the total numb	er of teaching sta	ff	
The total number of teaching staff _	(1.2)		
The total number of ECEIII Certified	teaching staff _	(1.1)		

Circle the Appropriate Level	1 = 0 to	2= 26 to 50%	3 = 51 to	4 = 76 to 100%
	25%		<i>75%</i>	

INDICATOR 2): Stimulating and Dynamic Environment

The criteria for measuring this are drawn from *Play and Exploration Guide*. The program is child centered. Children are viewed as competent learners, and they have the freedom to access classroom materials independently without adult intervention. The children are provided with meaningful choices through activity/learning centers. There is evidence of the children's interests and their projects in the learning environment.

How to Measure:

Below is the checklist of items that should be present to assess if the environment is both stimulating and dynamic for the children. You will want to observe that the following items are occurring in the classroom first. If you do not actually observe it occurring, then check the program plan to find documentation that it normally occurs but you just did not observe today. The checklist items would be found in *Play and Exploration* foundational materials.

Quality Early Learning Environments (Please record all that you observe Y or N):

1.	Co-teaching is evident. Y/N	(2.1)
2	Children are viewed as competent	learn <i>i</i>

- 2. Children are viewed as competent learners & can access materials independently. Y/N _____(2.2)
- 3. Authentic and meaningful materials are used with children. Y/N (2.3)
- 4. Children are provided with meaningful choices. Y/N _____(2.4)
- 5. Children's work, art and photos are displayed respectfully. Y/N _____(2.5)
- 6. Family photos are displayed in the early learning program. Y/N _____(2.6)
- 7. Documentation of learning is displayed and discusses holistic development. Y/N _____(2.7)
- 8. Environment reflects the culture and beliefs of the children, families and staff. Y/N (2.8)
- 9. Variety of books & other print materials are available throughout the classroom Y/N _____(2.9)
- 10. A variety of writing materials are accessible to children most of the time. Y/N _____(2.10)
- 11. There is evidence of the children's interests & projects in the classroom. Y/N _____(2.11)

Scoring for PQI 2:

Total up the number of items where you recorded a "Y" above that you observed (curriculum or in classrooms), divide by 11 x 100% to come up with a percent and record here _______%. Then based on the percentage, you can find the score of 1-4 as per the chart below.

Circle the Appropriate Level	1 = 0 to	2= 26 to 50%	3 = 51 to	4 = 76 to 100%
	25%		<i>75%</i>	

INDICATOR 3): Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum Based on Assessments of Each Child

The key for this quality key indicator is that the program is following an individualized prescribed planning document when it comes to curriculum. It does not mean it is a canned program, in fact, it shouldn't if it is based upon the individual needs of each child's developmental assessment. The assessor will ask to see what is used to guide the curriculum. There should be a written document that clearly delineates the parameters of the philosophy, activities, guidance, and resources needed for the particular curricular approach. There should also be a developmental assessment which is clearly tied to the curriculum. The developmental assessment can be home-grown or a more standardized off-the-shelf type of assessment, the key being its ability to inform the various aspects of the curriculum. The purpose of the assessments is not to compare children but rather to compare the developmental progress of individual children as they experience the activities of the curriculum.

The following key elements should be present when assessing this quality indicator.

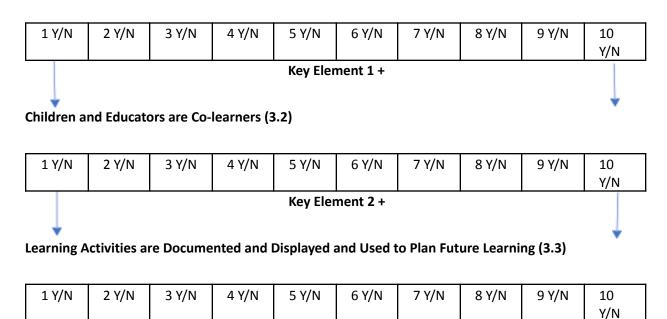
- 1) The program practices emergent curriculum, allowing the interests of the children to determine the learning content. The curriculum is informed by individual developmental assessments of each child in the respective classrooms.
- 2) The children and educators are co-learners in the exploration of projects.
- 3) Learning activities of the children are documented, displayed in the learning environment and used to plan further learning activities. This can be assessed developmentally.

How to Measure:

Take a sample of 10 individual children's records and consider the above three elements for EACH record. You should be asking yourself if there is a clear link between an assessment and the developmentally appropriate curriculum so that an individualized learning approach is being undertaken and each child's developmental needs are taken into consideration. These records could be formal, such as portfolios kept for each child or a more informal, anecdotal type of record keeping. The key is that there is a record that can be looked at. It is not adequate if the teacher says they do it from memory – it needs to be written down and documented.

Cross check the child's record to the actual curriculum. Record all the instances (Y's) in which this occurs. All three blocks need to be checked for each record (1-10).

Emergent Curriculum is Practiced (3.1)



Key Element 3 +

All three key elements must have a Y to get an overall score of Y. If all three key elements have a Y for that individual record, then record Y in the corresponding block in the overall score.

	1 Ys =	2 Ys =	3 Ys =	4 Ys =	5 Ys =	6 Ys =	7 Ys =	8 Ys =	9 Ys =	10 Ys
-										=

= Total of All Three Key Elements (3.4)

Scoring for PQI 3:

The number of positive records (all Ys for all three elements) where there is a crosswalk from developmental assessment to curriculum _______

Percent of positive records (all Ys) (divide the number of positive records by 10 x 100%) _______

Then based on the percentage, you can find the score of 1-4 as per the chart below.

Circle the Appropriate Level	1 = 0 to	2= 26 to 50%	3 = 51 to	4 = 76 to 100%
	25%		<i>75%</i>	

INDICATOR 4): Opportunities for Staff and Families to Get to Know Each Other

There should be activities both within the center as well as off site where staff and parents have opportunities to meet and greet each other. Communication with family members is documented and enables early childhood providers to assess the need for follow-up. Early childhood providers hold regular office hours when they are available to talk with family members either in person or by phone. Family members are encouraged to lead the conversation and to raise any questions or concerns.

How to Measure:

Look for the following 3 examples in policies developed by the program and determine if they have been carried out with families. It will be necessary to interview staff to complete this indicator if you do not find the three examples in policies:

- 1. The program provides communication, education, and informational materials & opportunities for families that are delivered in a way that meets their diverse needs. Y/N_____(4.1)
- 2. The program communicates with families using different modes of communication, and at least one mode promotes two-way communication. Y/N _____(4.2)
- 3. The program demonstrates respect and engages in ongoing two-way communication. The program respects each family's strengths, choices, & goals for their children. Y/N _____(4.3)

Scoring for PQI 4:

Record the number of Yes's (Y's): _____(Range: 0-3) (Divide by 3 x $100\% = ____%$). Then based on the percentage, you can find the score of 1-4 as per the chart below.

Circle the Appropriate Level	1 = 0 to	2= 26 to 50%	3 = 51 to	4 = 76 to 100%
	25%		<i>75%</i>	

INDICATOR 5): Families Receive Information on Their Child's Progress Regularly Using a

Formal Mechanism

Based upon Indicator #3 above, the information gleaned from the developmental assessments should be the focus of the report or parent conference. Parental feedback about the assessment and how it compares to their experiences at home would be an excellent comparison point. All these interactions should be done in a culturally and linguistically appropriate way representing the parents being served.

How to Measure:

Look for the following four examples in policies developed by the program and determine if they have been carried out with families. Record the number of reports completed or parent conferences over the past year. It will be necessary to interview staff to complete this indicator if you cannot determine from records that the conferences or reports were completed.

NOTE: The examples are mutually exclusive and are not additive; the first example is the highest scored, the third example the least scored. After 1-3 are determined, then do the last example.

- 1) The program does have regularly scheduled (at least 2xs/year) parent conferences in which the children's developmental progress is discussed AND provides the family with a report of their child's developmental progress. Y/N ______(5.1) (Score 3 points). If "Yes" then go to Number 4. If "No", then go to numbers 2 and 3.
- 2) The program has regularly scheduled (at least 2xs/year) parent conferences in which the children's developmental progress is discussed, but it does not provide a report to the parents on their child's developmental progress. Y/N _____(5.2) (Score 2 points).
- 3) If the program does not have regularly scheduled (at least 2xs/year) parent conferences, does it provide the family with a report of their child's developmental progress. Y/N _____(5.3) (Score 1 point). Go to Number 4.
- 4) All these interactions are done in a culturally and linguistically appropriate way representing the parents being served. Y/N _____(5.4) (Score 1 point)

Scoring for PQI5:

Add up the total points based on the Ys; this will range from "0" to "4". The only way a program can receive a "4", is if a program has regularly scheduled parent conferences at least 2xs/year and provides the family with a report of their child's progress; and it is done in a culturally and linguistically appropriate way.

Record the number of points:	(Range: 0 - 4)
Total Score for Part 1 =	

PART 2 - OBSERVATIONS:

INDICATOR 6): Educators Encourage Children to Communicate (Preschool Class)

Assessors will need to observe this item when they do their classroom observations. Initially you can ask educators or the director how children are encouraged to communicate but in order to gather reliable and valid information regarding this question/standard, it needs to be observed in the various interactions between staff and children. Things to look for would be more back and forth conversations rather than one-way conversations where educators are telling children what to do. Look for opportunities where children can describe what they are doing, how they feel about what they are doing, and why they are doing particular activities. Educators expand upon children's conversation.

These opportunities can occur anywhere in the classroom or outside, such as in dramatic play, tabletop activities or on the playground. Materials should be present that encourage communication such as toy telephones, puppets, flannel boards, dolls and dramatic play props, small barns, fire stations, or dollhouses. These create a lot of conversation among children as they assume many different roles. Children also talk when there is an interested person who listens to them. The staff in a high-quality early childhood classroom will use both activities and materials to encourage growth in communication skills.

How to Measure:

Observe the classroom for a minimum of 15 minutes. Once completed, consider where the classroom falls based on the following scale;

Score the classroom a 1 if the following occur:

Total up the number of "Y's" and recon particular score, all "Y's" must be cho given in order to obtain a "+". If thero	ecked for the	appropriate level ((1 - 4) from above o	
 (6.3) Some materials are accessib Communication activities are (6.5) Score the classroom a 3 if the follow one of the indicators then score this Communication activities tal dictates story about painting Materials that encourage ch for example: small figures are area; toys for dramatic play of Score the classroom a 4 if the follow one of the indicators then score this Staff balance listening and tac communication activities, for with limited communication Staff link children's spoken of what children dictate & read (6.10) Scoring for PQI 6: Total up the number of "Y's" and received 	e generally aping occur (If the item 2+): The place during; small group ildren to come and animals in boutdoors or in item 3+): The alking approper example: leastills. Y/N communication it back to the item item item item item item item ite	he classroom does ng both free play a discusses trip to s municate are acce block area; puppe ndoors. Y/N he classroom does riately for age and ave time for childr(6.9) on with written lan em; help them wri	children in the grounds not have both ind and group times, for store. Y/N(6 essible in a variety of ts and flannel board_(6.7) and have both ind abilities of children to respond; verbaguage, for example te notes to parents	ip. Y/Nicators but has r example: child 5.6) of interest centers, d pieces in book icators but has n during balize for child e: write down s. Y/N
 Some activities are used by s 	•	en to encourage th	nem to communica	te. Y/N
Score the classroom a 2 if the follow of the indicators then score this item	ing occur (If t	-		 -
songs. Y/N(6.1) • Very few materials accessible	e that encour	_	at circle time, finger mmunicate. Y/N	

INDICATOR 7): Infant Toddler Observation (if applicable) (Infant Classroom)

Conversations and questions should be used with all children, even young infants. Conversations using verbal and nonverbal turn-taking should be considered when scoring. Most conversations and questions initiated by infants will be nonverbal, such as widening of baby's eyes or waving arms and legs. Observe staff response to such nonverbal communication. For infants and toddlers, the responsibility for starting most conversations and asking questions belongs to the staff. As children become more able to initiate communication, staff should modify their approach in order to allow children to take on a greater role in initiating conversations and asking questions. Staff should provide answers to questions used by children if children cannot answer, and as children become more able to respond, questions should start to include those that the child can answer. If there was not an infant classroom, skip this Indicator and please note that here and on the summary score sheet by marking N/A:

How to Measure:

Observe the classroom for a minimum of 15 minutes. Once completed, consider where the classroom falls based on the following scale;

Score the classroom a 1 if the following occurs:

- Staff questions are often not appropriate for children, or no questions are asked, for example: too difficult to answer; carry a negative message. Y/N (7.2)
- Staff respond negatively when children can't answer questions, for example: "You should know this"; "You did not listen". Y/N _____(7.3)

Score the classroom a 2 if the following occurs (If the classroom does not have all 3 indicators but has 2 of the indicators then score this item 1+):

- Staff sometimes initiate conversations with children, for example: babble back and forth with baby; copy baby's sounds; respond to baby's crying with verbal response; have short back and forth toddler interactions. Y/N ______(7.4)
- Staff sometimes ask children appropriate questions and wait for the child to respond, for
 example: ask baby if she likes toy and pay attention as baby smiles; ask toddler what he is eating
 and wait for him to think of word. Y/N ______(7.5)
- Staff respond neutrally or positively to children who can't answer questions. Questions asked are sometimes meaningful to children, for example: child responds with interest; does not ignore staff questions. Y/N ______(7.6)

Score the classroom a 3 if the following occurs (If the classroom does not have all 4 indicators but has 2 or more of the indicators then score this item 2+):

- Staff initiate engaging conversations with children throughout the observation, for example: show enthusiasm; use tone that attracts child's attention. Y/N (7.7)
- Staff often personalize questions and/or conversations for individual children, for example: talk about children's families, preferences, interests; what they are playing with; what they did over weekend; child's mood; use child's name. Y/N ______(7.8)

INDICATOR 8): Educators Use Language to Develop Reasoning Skills (Preschool)

Assessors will need to observe very carefully as this standard can be difficult to determine because it is tying language and cognition together. Again, this opportunity can occur in any setting in or out of the classroom because it is the basis for problem solving through the use of language. Also look for educators redirecting children's conversations when appropriate. Staff should use language to talk about logical relationships using materials that stimulate reasoning. Through the use of materials, staff can demonstrate concepts such as same/different, classifying, sequencing, one-to-one correspondence, spatial relationships, and cause and effect.

How to Measure:

Observe the classroom for a minimum of 15 minutes. Once completed, consider where the classroom falls based on the following scale;

Score the classroom a 1 if the following occur:

- Staff do not talk with children about logical relationships, for example: ignore children's
 questions and curiosity about why things happen, do not call attention to sequence of daily
 events, differences and similarity in number, size, shape, cause and effect. Y/N ______(8.1)
- Concepts are introduced inappropriately, for example: concepts too difficult for age and abilities
 of children, inappropriate teaching methods used such as worksheets without any concrete
 experiences; teacher gives answers w/o helping children to figure things out. Y/N ______(8.2)

Score the classroom a 2 if the following occur (If the classroom does not have both indicators but has one of the indicators then score this item 1+):

• Staff sometimes talk about logical relationships or concepts, e.g.: explain that outside time comes after snacks, point out differences in sizes of blocks children use. Y/N ______(8.3)

• Some concepts are introduced appropriately for ages and abilities of children in group, using words and experiences, for example: guide children with questions and words to sort big and little blocks or to figure out why ice melts. Y/N ______(8.4)

Score the classroom a 3 if the following occur (If the classroom does not have both indicators but has one of the indicators then score this item 2+):

- Staff talk about logical relationships while children play with materials that stimulate reasoning, for example: sequence cards, same/different games, size and shape toys, sorting games, numbers and math games. Y/N _____(8.5)
- Children are encouraged to talk through or explain their reasoning when solving problems, for example: why they sorted objects into different groups, in what way two pictures are the same or different. Y/N (8.6)

Score the classroom a 4 if the following occur (If the classroom does not have both indicators but has one of the indicators then score this item 3+):

- Staff encourage children to reason throughout the day, using actual events and experiences as a basis for concept development, e.g.: children learn sequence by talking about their experiences in the daily routine or recalling the sequence of a cooking project. Y/N ______(8.7)
- Concepts are introduced based upon children's interests or needs to solve problems, for example: talk children through balancing a tall block building, help children figure out how many spoons are needed to set a table. Y/N ______(8.8)

Scoring for PQI 8:

Total up the number of "Y's" and record the appropriate level. In order for a classroom to receive a particular score, all "Y's" must be checked for the appropriate level (1 - 4) from above or partial credit given in order to obtain a "+".

Circle the Appropriate Level	1	2	3	4

For quality key indicators 9 and 10 it is recommended that these be assessed/observed throughout the observation period and not just during key activity times. These two quality key indicators should be observed in two-minute blocks over ten sequences for a total of 20 minutes. These two items should also be used with each age group being assessing.

INDICATOR 9): Educators Listen Attentively When Children Speak

This quality indicator focuses on the early childhood educator(s) looking directly at the children with nods, rephrases their comments, engages in conversations. Children should have the undivided attention of the specific educator they are addressing. Educators should not be looking away or preoccupied with others. They should be at the child's level making eye contact. The intent is to observe all children and educators in the room.

How to Measure:

Do this in timed 2-minute observations recording each time you observe this occurring. Record at least 10 different observation periods. These do not need to be consecutive in order to fully observe classrooms and educators. Please use the following scale to assess your recordings: Likert Scale (1-4) where 1 = Never/Not at All; 2 = Somewhat/Few Instances; 3 = Quite a Bit/Many Instances; 4 = Very Much/Consistently):

Make the actual recordings using the Likert Scale (1-4) above for each individual observation and record in each cell below.

	ations:								
10.1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10.10
Scoring for	r PQI 9:							-1	
number he	ere:		(Range	•	Divide this r	esult b	t Scale (1-4) a y 10) =)).		l the total _(1-
Circle tl	he Appropi	riate Level		1	2		3		4
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PQIAI Scoring Protocol

LEVEL	Standardized Scores	Actual Scores	
High Quality	Mixed Age: 36+ Preschool: 32+ Infant-Toddler: 28+	Mixed Age: Preschool: Infant-Toddler:	
High - Mid Quality	Mixed Age: 30 – 35 Preschool: 26 - 31 Infant-Toddler: 22 - 27	Mixed Age: Preschool: Infant-Toddler:	
Mid – Low Quality	Mixed Age: 20 – 29 Preschool: 16 - 25 Infant-Toddler: 12 - 21	Mixed Age: Preschool: Infant-Toddler:	
Low Quality	Mixed Ages: 19 or less Preschool: 15 or less Infant-Toddler: 11 or less	Mixed Age: Preschool: Infant-Toddler:	

Note:

Additional Information regarding the psychometrics of the tool contact: Richard Fiene, Ph.D., Research Psychologist, Research Institute for Key Indicators & Penn State University. RFiene@RIKInstitute.com

10/2020; 4/2021; 1/2023; 2/2023; 3/2023; 6/2025 versions

After completing the observations, reviewing all documentation, and interviewing staff, when necessary, please transfer all the results to the Summary Table below. If there was not an infant classroom, please note here, no infant classroom: ______. If there was not a toddler classroom, please note here, no toddler classroom: _____. If there was not a preschool classroom, please note here, no preschool classroom: _____.

Key Q Indicator	Quality Indicator Content	<u>Scale Source</u>	<u>Potential Score</u>	<u>Actual Score</u>
QKI 1	Professional Development	NAEYC	1-4	1, 2, 3, 4
QKI 2	The Environment	Saskatchewan	1-4	1, 2, 3, 4
QKI 3	Curriculum and Assessment	NAEYC	1-4	1, 2, 3, 4
QKI 4	Family Engagement I	QRIS	1-4	1, 2, 3, 4
QKI 5	Family Engagement II	QRIS	1-4	1, 2, 3, 4
QKI 6	Communication (Preschool)	ECERS	1-4 or NA	1, 2, 3, 4, +, NA
QKI 7	Infant Classroom	ITERS	1-4 or NA	1, 2, 3, 4, +, NA
QKI 8	Reasoning Skills (Preschool)	ECERS	1-4 or NA	1, 2, 3, 4, +, NA
QKI 9	Listen Attentively	CIS	1-4	1, 2, 3, 4
QKI 10	Speak Warmly	CIS	1-4	1, 2, 3, 4

Notes:

Use ITERS if: (Infants) (B-1yr)
Use ITERS if: (Toddlers) (1yr-2yr)
Use ECERS if: (Preschoolers) (3yr+)

PQIAI/Infant (administer QKI items 1-5, 7, 9-10) (Scores 8-32)

PQIAI/Toddler or Preschool (administer QKI items 1-5, 7, 9-10) (Scores 8-32) or (administer QKI items 1-6, 8-10) (Scores 9-36). Mixed age group (administer QKI items 1-10) (Scores 10-40)

PQIAI/Preschool (administer QKI items 1-6, 8-10) (Scores 9-36)

All the above 10 quality indicators (PQIAI) have been taken from other sources having been identified in Quality Indicator Studies conducted by Dr Richard Fiene from 1980 – 2020. Please refer to the source documents for details on their creation: ECERS, ITERS, QRIS/INQUIRE, CIS/Arnett, NAEYC, SASKATCHEWAN PLAY & EXPLORATION. For additional information, reports, and publications related to these studies, please go to https://rikinstitute.com/publication