



## Welcome to **Quality Start San Bernardino County!**

We're so excited that you decided to join us today, and for taking this great step toward improving the quality of child care in our community.

During the next 10 minutes or so, we'll be sharing the following information:

- What is Quality Start San Bernardino County, also known as QSSB?
- Why is it important to children, families, and the community?
- How might QSSB benefit me?
- How do I know if I am eligible?
- How do I enroll?
- Will I be asked to sign a contract?
- How and when will my child care or preschool be rated and assessed?
- How is the rating determined?
- What type of quality improvement plan will I follow?
- Will I receive any training, supports, or incentives?

Okay, let's get started!

Quality Start San Bernardino County is a countywide Quality Rating and Improvement System, or QRIS, implemented and led by the following collaborators:

- First 5 San Bernardino
- San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
- Child Care Resource Center
- California State University, San Bernardino
- San Bernardino County Preschool Services Department

Since the program began in 2016, QSSB has enrolled over 234 early education sites including:

- 154 large centers
- 74 Family Child Care homes
- 6 Family, Friend, and Neighbor care givers

More than 10,000 infant to preschool age children across the county have been served by these participating educators. Isn't that amazing!

### **What is QSSB and why is it important to children and families in our community?**

QSSB is designed to assess, improve and communicate the level of quality in early care and education programs. Each program is reviewed and given a quality rating. The ratings are determined by state defined standards in three core areas: child development and school readiness, teacher qualifications, and overall program and environment.



QSSB is also a great resource for parents in understanding, choosing and evaluating early care and education programs. High quality early learning environments will vary but all have several things in common, these include:

- Attention to a child's safety and well-being
- Appropriate child to caregiver ratios
- Regular opportunities for parent involvement
- Learning experiences that are appropriate depending on a child's age, development, and culture
- Caregivers have early childhood training and education

And, most importantly, children benefit. The first five years of a child's life are extremely important. Research shows that the care and education children receive from birth to age five play a major role in their early brain development.

High quality early learning experiences have also been proven to make a lasting difference in a child's life. Children who receive a high quality early education:

- Have better critical thinking skills
- Are better at engaging and cooperating with others
- Do better in reading and math
- Are more likely to graduate from high school
- And, are more likely to attend a four-year college!

### **How might QSSB benefit me?**

Professionals in early childhood education experience a wide variety of benefits when participating in QSSB. If you are approved, you may receive:

- A quality assessment and rating dependent upon where your site falls in the rating cycle.  
*Ratings occur every 3 to 5 years after a site's initial rating.*
- Quality improvement support
- Professional development coaching for sites with a 1-3 rating
- Access to trainings
- Incentives and other resources
- And support from a collaborative community of like-minded professionals

One important note about this year regarding COVID-19. Like the rest of the education community, QSSB is making program changes to keep our staff, participants, and children safe. Changes include, but are not limited to: over the phone, email, and virtual technical support, coaching and training and potentially delayed site assessments and ratings. We are following the procedures created by the California Department of Education and will communicate changes and expectations with participants accordingly.



## **How do I know if I am eligible?**

The minimum requirement for child care centers and family child care providers is a license in “good standing” with California’s Community Care Licensing.

Legally, license-exempt child care centers may qualify if the program is operated by a school district, tribal-approved, Cal-Safe, adult education preschool program, or based on a military installation.

After you finish watching this video simply complete the confirmation form and click submit. You will receive an email confirming your eligibility.

For any questions regarding your eligibility you may also call San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, the QSSB partner overseeing all CSPP sites, for whom contact information will be provided at the conclusion of the video.

## **How do I enroll?**

It’s pretty easy to get the process started!

Enrollment in QSSB happens in 3 simple steps:

- Fill out and submit an Orientation Confirmation form stating you have completed viewing this video
- Keep an eye on your email, we will send a letter confirming your eligibility and remainder of the enrollment packet
- Review and sign the QSSB contract

## **Will I be asked to sign a contract?**

You will receive a contract packet via email once your eligibility has been determined. After completing the required paperwork and thorough review of the contract, simply submit the signed contract and supporting documents according to the written instructions. Extensions may be granted on a case by case basis.

## **How and when will my child care or preschool be rated?**

Participating programs are measured and receive a rating ranging from 1 to 5. The rating helps identify strengths and opportunities to grow, and helps parents make informed child care decisions. A rating of:

- 1 = Emerging Quality
- 2 = Rising Quality
- 3 = Quality
- 4 = Quality Plus
- 5 = Highest Quality

QSSB raters will review all of your documentation and determine a preliminary score in accordance with the QSSB matrix.

Your preliminary score of 1-5 determines your QSSB path. If you receive a score of 3, 4 or 5, you will be further assessed. Facilities with a score of 1 or 2 will be rated without further assessment.



### **How is the rating determined?**

In addition to the documentation that has already been provided, all participants will have at least one appointment with a QSSB rater.

If you are being rated based on your preliminary score of 1 or 2, you will be contacted to schedule a ratings appointment.

During that time, the QSSB rater will need to review site information including two randomly chosen child files and a classroom ratio count. The rater will also meet with the facility administrator.

If you are being assessed based on your preliminary score of 3-5, you will be contacted for assessments including the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) and Environment Ratings Scale (ERS). With few exceptions, a classroom may not opt out of an assessment.

All rated sites will receive a letter with a copy of the rating report.

Sites that receive a final rating of 1,2 or 3 will receive coaching services. Sites with a 4 or 5 will receive quality improvement supports like a custom quality improvement plan and access to trainings.

As a reminder, this describes a traditional program year. The timeline of assessments and ratings is subject to change based on COVID-19 precautions and sites may not receive a program rating until 2021.

### **What type of quality improvement plan (QIP) will I follow?**

Utilizing your ratings report, QSSB personnel will work with you to develop an individualized QIP. Once the tailored plan is in place, you will receive technical assistance and resources based on your needs.

### **Will I receive any other training, supports or incentives?**

Being a part of QSSB is being a part of a very supportive community. You will have access to professional development opportunities, coaching and trainings dependent on your site rating which may include:

- Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) 2015 (Fundamental & Comprehensive)
- Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE2)
- CLASS for Infant, Toddler and Pre-K
- Environmental Rating Scales (ERS)
- Program for Infant-Toddler Care (PITC)
- California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN)
- Strengthening Families – Five Protective Factors
- Other trainings as identified and available

**All** participants are required to have a California Early Care and Education Workforce Registry. If needed, QSSB personnel can help you set one up!

Participants will also receive QSSB newsletters which offer professional insights, resources and training opportunities.



And, let's not forget the monetary incentives! These incentives, as specified in your contract packet, are based on your achievement level as determined in the ratings process.

There you have it – your introduction to QSSB!

**It's a lot to remember so here's a recap of what you need to do to participate:**

- Watch this video! Yay! You've almost completed the first step.
- Complete and submit the application and supplemental paperwork.
- Sign the contract.
- Maintain contact with program personnel and complete your assessments and/or ratings requirements.
- Complete all of the necessary paperwork accurately and on time.
- Actively participate in your coaching sessions, if applicable.
- Work toward meeting the individual goals you develop with your coach!
- Utilize your incentives and trainings to build your quality!

**Please contact San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools at [Traci.Brody@sbcss.net](mailto:Traci.Brody@sbcss.net) or [Veronica.Valente@sbcss.net](mailto:Veronica.Valente@sbcss.net)**

- Have any questions
- Need further information
- Would like to receive a hard copy of the application
- Or require language assistance

**Thank you for interest in Quality Start San Bernardino County!**