



## 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 partners:

- 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 hundreds of early education sites across our vast county.

That equates to more than 10,000 infant to preschool age children learning and growing in high quality environments annually! Isn't that amazing?

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

QSSB is a workforce development program designed to strengthen the early learning landscape through individualized assessment, tailored supports, and professional growth and networking opportunities for programs serving children zero to five. Additionally, California State Preschools in QSSB are assessed and given a quality rating on a scale of one (emerging quality) to five (highest quality). 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
- 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



## **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.

For any questions regarding your eligibility, you may also contact San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS), 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 simple! Enrollment happens in 3 steps:

1. You’re well on your way to completing step 1- watching this orientation video
2. Keep an eye on your email for the enrollment packet for further instructions.
3. Finally, review and sign the QSSB contract also delivered via email.

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

Yes, all participants are required to sign a contract. QSSB personnel from SBCSS will email your electronic contract outlining expectations and roles. After thoroughly reviewing the agreement, sign and submit according to the written instructions. Extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

## **How and when will my 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 required documentation and determine a score in accordance with the Quality Continuum Framework – Measure Quality Elements. The scheduling of your rating is dependent upon where your site falls in the rating cycle. Ratings occur every 3 to 5 years after a site’s initial rating.

Your 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?**

When it is time for your rating and assessment, you will first be contacted by QSSB Personnel from Cal State SB for a Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) assessment. With few exceptions, a classroom may not opt out of an assessment.

Secondly, a QSSB rater will contact you to schedule a visit to your site. They will review two randomly chosen child files and site information during the rating visit. The rater will also meet with the facility administrator.

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.

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

Utilizing your ratings report, QSSB personnel will work with you to develop an individualized Quality Improvement Plan or 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?**

To be part of QSSB is to be part of a 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
- 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 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 QSSB!**