



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?
- What type of quality improvement plan will I follow?
- Will I receive any trainings or supports?

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. All child care settings including private centers, family child care homes, state preschools, transitional kindergarten, license-exempt and alternative settings are eligible for enrollment. Each one is assessed and coached according to state defined standards in three core areas: child development and school readiness, teacher qualifications, and overall program and environment. Additionally, participating state preschools will receive a rating, on a scale of one (emerging quality) to five (highest quality), based on the same standards.



QSSB is also a great resource for parents in understanding, choosing, and evaluating early care and education programs for their children and families. 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
- 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:

- Professional development coaching
- Training to enhance quality
- 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.

Other qualifying license-exempt child care providers include child care provided by a relative in any arrangement.

Community and home-based child care settings that provide early learning and school readiness



services to parents and young children and are not subsidized by child care or preschool sites are also eligible. These settings include, but are not limited to, family resource centers, home visiting programs, community-based organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs, and libraries.

For any questions regarding your eligibility, you may also contact Child Care Resource Center (CCRC), the QSSB partner overseeing the enrollment of all sites except state preschools. 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 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.

What type of Quality Improvement Plan will I follow?

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 coaching support, 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 training which may include:

- Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE2)
- California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN)
- Strengthening Families – Five Protective Factors
- Communities of Practice
- Other trainings as identified and available

All participants are required to have a California Early Care and Education Workforce Registry number. 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! Incentives are distributed to support your program's efforts and goals as outlined in your Quality Improvement Plan.



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.
- 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 the trainings to build your quality.

Please contact Amanda Gray at AGray@ccrcca.org if you:

- 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!