SWFL Stars
Provider Guide
The Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida is proud to present its Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), Southwest Florida Stars. SWFL Stars is a 5-star rating system designed to highlight and enhance the quality of child care services in our service area, which includes Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties. It was developed through a great team effort, using a collaborative approach between Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida Provider Services staff members, Program Committee members, and a SWFL Stars Workgroup, which included SWFL child care providers.

VISION

The vision of SWFL Stars is to promote and recognize early learning environments of distinguished quality which will support young children to become lifelong learners.

GOALS

The SWFL Stars Workgroup has outlined the following goals of this QRIS:

☆ To raise the standards and accountability in early learning environments and provide a road map to quality.

☆ To promote positive outcomes for children.

☆ To identify and recognize early learning providers for the quality services they provide.

☆ To build a stronger partnership between early learning providers and the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida.

☆ To offer early learning providers a marketing tool.
How are Child Care programs evaluated?

Child care programs that choose to participate in Southwest Florida Stars are evaluated based on three quality categories:

☆ Learning Environment and Classroom Interactions
☆ Screening and Assessments
☆ Professional Development and Staff Qualifications

Who can participate?

Child Care Providers who have been legally operating as per the Florida Department of Children and Families and currently have a School Readiness and/or Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten contract with the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida can apply to participate in Southwest Florida Stars.

Benefits to Participation

☆ Free program quality assessments using Classroom Assessment Scoring System
☆ Specialized trainings for providers
☆ On-site, personalized support provided by ELC Early Childhood Specialists
☆ Access to educational scholarships
☆ Discounted CEUs
☆ Quality improvement resources
☆ Community recognition
☆ Preferred access to quality initiatives, such as Lee County’s Preferred Provider Program
☆ Quarterly Support Groups for Directors
☆ **Quality Enhancement Supports are subject to funding availability.**
Learning Environments and Classroom Interactions

Quality in child care settings varies greatly and includes a number of determining elements. These elements, referred to as “process quality” include things such as interactions between children and teachers, use of materials, the classroom and outdoor spaces, and the overall curriculum and schedule of the classroom. In order to capture information regarding all of these elements, multiple assessment tools have been created and researched to ensure their reliability and validity.

Child care providers will be assessed once per year with the applicable tools. Assessments will be completed by a trained, reliable assessor. The assessments will include the Infant Classroom Assessment Scoring System, Toddler Classroom Assessment Scoring System, and the Pre-K Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). Family child care homes will receive a CLASS assessment. To determine the tool to be used, at least 60% of the children enrolled must be between the ages of the applicable CLASS tool.

Supporting Documents:
☆ All applicable CLASS reports
Screening and Assessments

ASQs, TS Gold and other screening and assessment tools provide valuable information to both parents and teachers regarding the overall development of each child. This allows parents and teachers to ensure that each child's developmental needs are being met and assists in planning activities to ensure continued growth.

Screening: Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)

An Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) should be completed for all children enrolled. Credit will be given if ASQ is only completed for all School Readiness (SR) children on time at Star Level One. Paper copy of ASQ is available for Non-SR children. Credit will not be given if a non-compliance was issued for not completing ASQ.

Assessment aligned with DEL Approved Curriculum (TS Gold)

There should be evidence of facility using a child assessment that is aligned with DEL Approved Curriculum

Training certificate for assessment aligned with DEL approved Curriculum (IRR)

Documentation showing completion of assessment for all children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screening and Assessment</th>
<th>Star Level 1</th>
<th>Star Level 2</th>
<th>Star Level 3</th>
<th>Star Level 4</th>
<th>Star Level 5</th>
<th>25 points possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) screenings and Individualized Learning Plans (ILPs) on time for all children</td>
<td>☑ Complete ASQ screenings and ILPs on time for all children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conduct one parent/teacher conference for each student to discuss the child’s developmental progress and behavioral, social, emotional, and physical needs</td>
<td>☑ Conduct one parent/teacher conference for each child</td>
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<tr>
<td>One on-site member of administration complete training for selected child assessment</td>
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5 points | 10 points | 15 points | 20 points | 25 points | Total SAC Points Earned |
Professional Development and Staff Qualifications

The ELC of SWFL recognizes the value of continuing professional development. We want to acknowledge the hard work of child care providers and encourage them to continue learning and growing, along with the children they care for. Whether through in-service training or formal education, coursework allows providers to strengthen their skill set and as a result, enhance the level of care and education provided in their classrooms.

Supporting Documents:
- Copy of training certificates
- DCF Transcript
- College Transcript
Ratio & Group Size

Providers will report the ratio and group size they routinely follow for each classroom. Actual ratio and group size will be monitored by an ELC Early Childhood Specialist during an on-site visit. Additionally, ratio and group size observed by DCF during their annual visits will be reviewed. Ratio and group size for a mixed group will be determined by majority in the age group with the exception of Infants and Ones, where the youngest age will be used to determine the ratio and group size. The points assigned for this section will be based on the highest ratio and/or largest group size observed during either DCF or the ELC visits.

Supporting Documents:

☆ DCF License
☆ Most recent DCF Inspection Reports, or applicable inspection report
☆ ECS Ratio Check upon visit

DCF Violations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violation Type</th>
<th>Point Deduction</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class 1</td>
<td>Provider is held at a level 1 regardless of overall score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 2</td>
<td>5 points deducted for the first Class 2 violations in an area, subsequent Class 2 violations in the same area results in the provider being held at a level 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 3</td>
<td>2 points deducted for each Class 3 violation. Should the provider receive 3 or more Class 3 violations in the same area within the fiscal year 10 points will be deducted.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Specialist will review DCF inspection reports during the fiscal year and adjust the provider’s points based on the culmination of all DCF reviews within that fiscal year.