



Smart Start San José Quality Child Care Check List

Smart Start has adopted a set of [Program Quality Standards Guidelines](#) across nine important child care quality areas for both licensed child care centers and family child care homes. This check list is based on these guidelines and is intended to help families make informed decisions about whether the child care providers they are considering meet basic quality strategies for caring for young children.

Smart Start Focus Area	Smart Start Basic Quality Strategies	Meets Strategies	
		Yes (√)	No (√)
1. Licensing Standards & Regulatory Compliance	a) Does the provider have a child care license which is not probationary or involved in a compliance plan? This license should be prominently posted at the site.		
	b) Has the provider been fined by the State Community Care Licensing Division for failing to correct a deficiency in a timely manner or for repeated licensing offenses?		
	c) For a child care center, do they have 1 staff person for every 4 infants, 1 staff person for every 4 toddlers, and/or 1 staff person for every 12 preschool age children served?		
	d) For a family child care home, do they meet state licensing criteria (Title 22 requirements)? ¹		
2. Program Rating Scales	a) For child care centers, does the provider use the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R) and/or the Infant-Toddler Environmental Rating Scale-Revised (ITERS-R) each year to rate their program? ²		
	b) For family child care homes, does the provider use the Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale-Revised (FCCERS-R)? ³		
	c) Does the provider develop and implement an annual plan to raise its ECERS-R, FCCERS-R, and/or ITERS-R ratings?		
3. Developmentally Appropriate Care	a) Does the provider use at least one of the generally accepted tools each year to measure whether developmentally appropriate care is being provided? ⁴		
	b) Does the provider develop and implement an action plan to address areas in need of improvement identified through use of the developmentally appropriate care tool(s)?		
	c) Is staff trained on providing program activities that are based on the chosen developmentally appropriate care tool?		

¹ The State has a list of requirements referred to as “Title 22 requirements” that all licensed family child care homes must meet. To read these requirements, please visit the Community Care Licensing Division website at: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/entres/getinfo/pdf/fccman.pdf>.

² These tools assess child care centers about the care provided onsite in areas such as interaction with children and families, safety and personal care, and activities offered.

³ This tool assesses family child care homes about the care provided onsite in areas covered by the ECERS-R and ITERS-R.

Smart Start Focus Area	Smart Start Basic Quality Strategies	Meets Strategies	
		Yes (√)	No (√)
4. Kindergarten Readiness	a) Does the provider use a tool that measures school readiness of young children and are staff trained to use this tool?		
	b) Does the provider share information about kindergarten registration?		
	c) Does the provider meet with families about the transition to kindergarten?		
	d) Does the provider give families information about services to support child development?		
	e) Does the provider train staff on kindergarten readiness requirements?		
5. Regular Communication with Elementary Schools	a) Does the provider inform families about kindergarten registration at least one year before their children are eligible?		
	b) Does the provider have regular communication with elementary schools where the majority of their children are expected to attend?		
	c) Does the provider give families copies of child progress reports to share with elementary schools their children may attend?		
6. Parent Participation	a) Does the provider give a family orientation that includes family visiting rights and the program handbook?		
	b) Did you notice provider staff greeting families at pick up or drop off and does the provider have a communications board onsite for families to receive program and other information?		
	c) Does the provider offer a variety of ways for families to contribute to the program?		
	d) Does the provider have at least two activities each year with children and families like a family night or potluck?		
	e) Does the provider ask families about their needs, goals and preferences?		
	f) Does the provider communicate with families in a way or method that meets your family's needs?		
	g) Does the provider have a daily routine and calendar of activities available to families?		
	h) Does the provider give information to families on healthy child growth and development?		
	i) Does the provider regularly give information to families about current community resources and local community events?		
	j) Does the provider staff seem to know about community resources?		

Smart Start Focus Area	Smart Start Basic Quality Strategies	Meets Strategies	
		Yes (√)	No (√)
7. Access to Computers and Technology for Children	a) Do preschool children have access to developmentally appropriate software?		
	b) Do the computers and other technology for children appear safe and comfortable for children to use?		
	c) Does the provider have rules about how technology is used to support program activities?		
	d) Does the provider staff demonstrate to young children how to handle and use technology equipment responsibly?		
8. Cultural Competency, Diversity and Equity	a) Does the provider have policies and practices that reflect the traditions of your family?		
	b) Does the provider value diversity and respect child and family culture?		
	c) Does the provider communicate regularly with families about their child's progress and behavioral, social and physical needs?		
	d) Does the provider invite families to develop and share information that is meaningful to their history and traditions?		
	e) Does the provider have ways to learn from families about their family structure, their preferred childrearing practices and information families want to share about their backgrounds?		
	f) Does the provider offer a program that promotes equity, learning, growth and development for all children, families, and staff?		
	g) Does the provider offer staff leadership and professional development opportunities that support culturally competent policies and practices?		
	h) Does the provider require staff to participate in cultural competence and inclusive practices training?		
	i) Can the provider staff use basic phrases in the languages spoken by you and your children?		
9. Inclusive Environment for Children at Risk or with Identified Special Needs	a) Does the provider feel welcoming and accessible to children with special needs?		
	b) Does the provider ensure children with special needs are treated with respect and caring and not subject to bullying and isolation?		
	c) Does the provider comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act? ⁵		
	d) Does the provider encourage communication with families about Individualized Family Service Plans or Individual Education Plans?		
	e) Does the provider give families information about their rights?		

⁵ The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities. For more information about ADA requirements for child care providers, please visit the U.S. Department of Justice website at <http://www.ada.gov/childq&a.htm>.