



QUALITY COUNTS

Striving for Five Star Early Learning



Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) **Information for the *Quality Counts*** **Child Care WAGES® Florida Project—Miami-Dade**

Quality Counts is a **voluntary rating and improvement system** that reviews early learning programs according to clearly defined, high quality standards using a five star method of evaluation and offers supports and incentives to help providers reach their goals.

The goal of **Quality Counts** is to improve the quality of early care and education programs in Miami-Dade County.

Quality Counts is designed and funded by The Children's Trust in partnership with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe and the Early Childhood Initiative Foundation/Ready Schools Miami. It is administered in collaboration with Florida International University, the University of Miami Mailman Center, Devereux Florida, Family Central Inc., the Children's Forum and the United Way Center for Excellence.

QRIS Rating Criteria

- Learning Environment
- Staff Educational Qualifications
- Adult-Child Ratios and Group Sizes
- Family Engagement
- Program Administration
- Curriculum

Benefits for Providers

Listed here are some of the support services and financial incentives available for your program.

- Grants for materials and equipment
- Educational scholarships for staff
- Wage supplements for staff
- Technical assistance
- Financial awards

How can you become a part of *Quality Counts*?

- Attend an informational meeting
- Submit an application for consideration
- Take a self-study training
- Evaluate your own program
- Have your program rated
- Access support services
- Participate in annual reviews

Become part of a quality rating improvement system that will one day be used by thousands of parents in Miami-Dade County to make informed choices about the best care and education for their children.

Call 305-646-7242
or visit www.elcmdm.org (click on *Quality Counts*)