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GOVERNOR

State of Michigan  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
BUREAU OF CHILDREN AND ADULT LICENSING



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DIRECTOR

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Dear Child Care Provider:

Michigan's Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System (TQRIS) reflects our commitment to ensuring that all children have access to high quality child care and preschool and is the culmination of several years of increased focus on supporting providers to improve quality. A Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System will provide families with information about early learning standards and help them make early learning decisions and child care selections for their children based on those standards.

Beginning in October 2011, Michigan will launch a TQRIS for all child care providers.

- The Michigan TQRIS is a system of progressive standards that has five levels or tiers.
- Each level represents slightly higher standards and a higher level of quality.
- Higher levels of quality in early learning experiences correlate to greater school readiness, particularly for children with high needs.

Providers have shown their dedication to improving children's early learning and development, and ultimately school readiness, through their participation in professional development, training, peer networks, and quality consultation. A TQRIS is the next natural step in supporting a "culture" of quality that is growing in early learning and care settings across Michigan.

The entry level of the TQRIS is Level One. This will be the level at which all child care facilities, referred to in the TQRIS as "early learning and care" providers will enter the Michigan TQRIS.

- Making the decision to move from Level One to any of the higher levels will be **voluntary**.
- Moving from Level One to Level Two or Three will require an on-line self-assessment.
- Moving from Level Three to Level Four or Five will require that providers invite a trained, impartial quality rater to make an on-site visit and complete an evaluation using the Program Quality Assessment (PQA) instruments, developed by the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation.

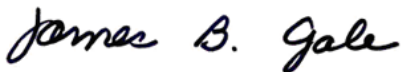
At each of the five levels of quality, providers will be able to access information, resources, personal consultation, and training to help them reach the level of quality that they want for their programs.

***To provide adequate time for all early learning and care providers to better understand the TQRIS, no information on the initial Level One rating will be published or shared with parents for ONE YEAR. After that time, all TQRIS ratings will be available to anyone using Great Start CONNECT.*** Great Start CONNECT is the web-based online searchable database for licensed and registered child care and preschools, including Head Starts and Great Start Readiness Programs, [www.greatstartCONNECT.org](http://www.greatstartCONNECT.org).

A new program such as this naturally will generate many questions. Much more detailed information about how to access the TQRIS system will be provided in future correspondence. If you have questions on the TQRIS system or process, please submit them to [tqris-info@ecic4kids.org](mailto:tqris-info@ecic4kids.org).

We want to thank each of you for your continued dedication to provide the highest quality early learning experiences for Michigan's children. Together our efforts can support the next generation to be successful in school and in life.

Sincerely,



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