



Quick Facts 2009: Changes to Quality Start Model and Rule

Summary of changes effective December 1, 2008 that are in the Rule for Quality Start Child Care Rating System:

1. The effective period of a star award was extended from one year to two years. Ratings will be earned biennially.
2. A Midpoint Review process will be completed at the one year mark to ensure that the center continues to meet the standards for their current star rating. More information will follow about the Midpoint Review process.
3. A change was made to provide for a waiver of a requirement in certain, rare circumstances. The decision to grant or deny a waiver rests with the sole discretion of the Secretary of the Department.

Following is a summary of the changes in the Quality Start Model that was part of the rule.

1. Formatting changes were made for clarification (such as changing the font and adding bullets).
2. The name of the program has been changed from Louisiana Quality Rating System to Quality Start Child Care Rating System.
3. The MODEL IS NOW DATED December 2008.
4. The reference to licensing standards is found in the Louisiana Administrative Code has been changed from Title 48 to Title 67. No changes have been made to the licensing regulations.
5. The rule was changed to clarify that Quality Start is designed to support programs serving children birth through age five. References to child/staff ratio, etc. for six year olds have been omitted at this time.
6. Staff qualifications have been changed to clarify the desired sequence of Introduction to ERS and Understanding ERS training.
7. In Staff Qualifications, at five points for Director, the wording in #2 has been changed to clarify that a director must have six semester hour credits of administrative coursework. The 75 hours of Administrative training option was removed.
8. Staff qualifications at four and five points require training in social-emotional screening of children. However, reference to developing individual instructional plans for children based on specific developmental needs was removed.

PLEASE NOTE: Changes in the Model or Rule did not effect eligibility for or amount of the School Readiness Tax Credits for 2008.

For more information, please refer to www.qrslouisiana.com or call your regional Child Care Quality Specialist at 1-800-680-9098.

