



Talking Points about Capital Quality

Thank you for participating in Capital Quality! It is important that families in your program understand the important work you do to support their children. Here are some talking points you can use to help explain Capital Quality to families.

High-quality early learning experiences are important

- A child's brain grows more during the first five years of life than any other time in their development.¹
- Studies have shown that children who receive high-quality early learning experiences from birth to five often have higher reading, math and critical thinking skills.²

Capital Quality supports me as a professional

- Capital Quality focuses on improving the quality of early learning programs in Washington, DC.
- It is important to me to have a high-quality program for your child. As a Capital Quality participant, I have access to professional development opportunities, including one-on-one support.
- My program also receives additional incentives that support us in improving program quality.
- By participating in Capital Quality, my program is part of a larger community of early care and education providers who work towards improving quality of care that we provide.

Designations help describe the quality of our programs

- You can visit the My Child Care DC website, mychildcaredc.org, to see information on this facility's Capital Quality designation.
- Capital Quality designations help us identify our strengths and understand our areas for improvement.
- The facility's Capital Quality designation is determined by an assessment of our homes or classrooms, programs and teacher-child interactions.
- We have a Capital Quality facilitator who we work with to improve quality in identified areas.

For programs with a Capital Quality designation of Preliminary

- These programs meet children's basic health and safety standards. This is an initial designation provided to programs that have just entered the Capital Quality rating system. These programs are still in the process of being rated to determine their Capital Quality designation of Developing, Progressing, Quality or High-Quality.
- We are in the process of being rated.

1. Center on the Developing Child (2007). The Science of Early Childhood Development (InBrief). Retrieved from www.developingchild.harvard.edu.

2. Hirokazu Yoshikawa et al., Investing in Our Future: The Evidence Base on Preschool Education, Foundation for Child Development, 2013

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For programs with a Capital Quality designation of Developing

- The facility's Capital Quality designation was Developing. Programs with this designation meet children's basic health and safety standards and there is minimal evidence that the program provides a nurturing environment with supportive interactions (e.g., responsive scheduling, warm and positive interactions) that promotes children's cognitive, physical and social-emotional development.
- We are continuously improving the quality of care we provide.
- We did well in [areas where you had a strong rating.] We are working on [areas where you are focusing on quality improvement.]
- The Capital Quality facilitator helped us create a continuous quality improvement plan based on the facility's Capital Quality designation. She/he is working with us to help improve the areas identified.

For programs with a Capital Quality designation of Progressing

- The facility's Capital Quality designation was Progressing. Programs with this designation meet children's basic health and safety standards and there is adequate evidence that the program provides a nurturing environment with supportive interactions (e.g., responsive scheduling, warm and positive interactions) that promotes children's cognitive, physical and social-emotional development.
- We are continuously improving the quality of care we provide.
- We did well in [areas where you had a strong rating.] We are working on [areas where you are focusing on quality improvement.]
- The Capital Quality facilitator helped us create a continuous quality improvement plan based on the facility's Capital Quality designation. She/he is working with us to help improve the areas identified.

For programs with a Capital Quality designation of Quality

- The facility's Capital Quality designation was Quality. Programs with a designation of Quality meet children's basic health and safety standards and there is good evidence that the program provides a nurturing environment with supportive interactions (e.g., responsive scheduling, warm and positive interactions) that promotes children's cognitive, physical and social-emotional development.
- We did well in [areas where you had a strong rating.] We are working on [areas where you are focusing on quality improvement.]
- The Capital Quality facilitator helped us create a continuous quality improvement plan based on the facility's Capital Quality designation. She/he is helping us get even better at delivering quality.

For programs with a Capital Quality designation of High-Quality

- The facility's Capital Quality designation was High-Quality. Programs with a designation of High-Quality meet children's basic health and safety standards and there is considerable evidence that the program provides a nurturing environment with supportive interactions (e.g., responsive scheduling, warm and positive interactions) that promotes children's cognitive, physical and social-emotional development.
- We did well in [areas where you had a strong rating.] We are working on [areas where you are focusing on quality improvement.]
- The Capital Quality facilitator helped us create a continuous quality improvement plan based on the facility's Capital Quality designation. She/he is helping us get even better at delivering quality.

For more information, visit osse.dc.gov or email osse.delcommunications@dc.gov