



Michigan Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System (TQRIS) Launched for Early Learning Programs and Child Care Providers!

Michigan has launched the TQRIS being called “**Great Start to Quality.**” This Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System reflects Michigan’s 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 launched 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.

As the Regional Resource Center, we will be supporting you to navigate this system and move up in levels documenting the quality structures already in place and working to continue to improve their quality. All programs including Head Start and GSRP preschool programs are involved in this process.

You can access the online system, **Great Start to Quality**, accessible through the Great Start CONNECT system. Go to www.greatstartconnect.org. **Login information, if not known, is available through the Regional Resource Center by calling 1-877-614-7328.**

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.

We have staff available to help you over the phone, in person, and in small groups with this process. We can even help with access to computers and internet. Call your local child care educator (see page 2) or the number below.

For more information or if you have questions, please call our office at 1-877-614-7328.

Learning Kits Available!

The NE Great Start Regional Resource Center has learning kits available to child care providers, parents, and early childhood educators. Currently, each Local Child Care Educator (4 throughout our region) holds 6 sets of 13 kits to distribute in their areas for parents, child care providers, and early educators to use! Below is a picture of one kit. Pictures of all kits can be seen by going to our website, www.cfsgreatstartchildcare.org under "Resource Library."



We have a picture glossary of all kits available and new kits being implemented into the learning kit library. Contact your Local Child Care Educator for more details. Kits can be brought right to you!

Mackinac , Luce, and Chippewa Counties

Heather Bird
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Cheboygan, Otsego and Presque Isle Counties

Melinda Hambleton
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Alpena, Montmorency, Iosco and Alcona Counties

Danielle Hansen
989-354-8089
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Crawford, Ogemaw, Roscommon and Oscoda Counties

Lorie Holton
989-685-3290
989-578-9641

Need Training? **Go to www.greatstartconnect.org!**

We post information about other organizations' workshop opportunities for you on the training calendar, but also have some classes we are doing ourselves. Go to www.greatstartconnect.org for a full list of training opportunities that are free or low costs. See below for correspondence (through the mail) and online opportunities we are currently offering. Register online if you are able, but if you have difficulties, call us at 1-877-614-7328.

Correspondence

January 9 start, Jan 30 end -Correspondence course – **Child Screening and Assessment** - learn about available child assessment tools and how they can be used to improve quality in your program. Send checks to CFS by Jan 2. 2 hours \$10

Feb 6 start, Feb 27 end – Correspondence course – **Cultural Competence and Inclusive Practices** – learn about serving children with special needs or disabilities as well as teaching diverse children and supporting diverse children and their families. Send checks to CFS by Jan 30. 3 hours \$15

March 5th start, March 26 end – Correspondence course – **The Health Environment** – learn how to write a plan that supports children's health, a nutrition plan (including having it reviewed by a dietician), develop plans for daily physical activity, keep accurate health records, make informal child health observations, and plan and implement a daily oral care routine. Send checks to CFS by Feb 27. 4 hours \$20

Online

January 31st – online course – **Family and Community Partnerships and Collaboration** – how to engage and involve families, connect families to educational opportunities, increase effective communication with families, conference with families, and inform parents about early childhood information. Participants will be emailed login and password information one week before course begins. Checks will need to be mailed to CFS by Jan 24th. 3 hours \$15

February 21st – online course – **Early Childhood Curriculum** – learn what an approved curriculum includes, develop a statement of education, review effective daily schedules, develop a written plan for integrating policies that demonstrates cultural competence and accommodates and respects children with special needs. Participants will be emailed login and password information one week before course begins. Checks will need to be received at CFS by Feb 14th. 3 hours \$15



Great Start CONNECT
is THE source in Michigan for
Early Learning Resources!

Go to www.greastartconnect.org to update your profile, register for training, and find other resources!!



CHILD CARE & PRESCHOOL	LOCAL SUPPORT	TRAINING	LEARN MORE	LOG IN
<p>Find child care and preschool providers that can best meet the needs of your family.</p> 	<p>Use this interactive map to locate resources in your community that offer support to you and young children in your care.</p> 	<p>Register here for training opportunities, including Great Start to Quality Orientation Trainings.</p> 	<p>Learn more about quality child care and preschool learning environments.</p> 	<p>Licensed Provider Portal: Log in to Great Start CONNECT.</p>  

NE Great Start Regional Resource Center

for Alpena, Alcona, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Crawford, Iosco, Luce, Mackinaw, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, and Roscommon Counties

1044 US 23 North ~ Alpena, MI 49707

1-877-614-7328 or 989-354-8089

www.cfsgreastartchildcare.org

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