



Improvements are coming to Quality First

Quality First Revision – beginning July 1, 2023

Here's what Quality First Participants are saying.

Quality First is Arizona's Quality Improvement and Rating System. It's a system of support, working with over 1,000 child care and preschool providers across Arizona to improve the quality of their early learning settings.

Voices from the Field

"It's been amazing, I've learned so much through the years, all because of the process we go through to focus on how we can improve our program and improve the quality for our students."

– TEACHER,
PARTICIPANT SINCE 2017

"We're here because we want to provide for them quality experiences, environments, interactions, relationships. It's just a really good package deal."

– CENTER DIRECTOR,
PARTICIPANT SINCE 2011

"As an in-home provider, it's just having another layer of people that I can turn to and help me to feel not so isolated."

– FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER,
PARTICIPANT SINCE 2016

"The relationship I have with my Quality First coach is a very positive one, very supportive. Just being someone that we know is there in case we have questions or if we need to work through something."

– TEACHER,
PARTICIPANT SINCE 2017



Announcing a revision to Quality First

As an early care and education professional, you care for Arizona's youngest learners every day. Quality First exists to support you, so you can support Arizona's children. Through this revision, Quality First will bring more individualized support to you, no matter where you are on your quality improvement journey.

What's new

- ✓ Three levels of support to meet you where you are
- ✓ More flexibility in coaching hours
- ✓ Targeted funding for your program
- ✓ Access to more communication and resources
- ✓ Orientation, onboarding and participation support
- ✓ Increased support from a Child Care Health Consultant

What continues

- ✓ A system of support for your program
- ✓ Assessment using ERS and CLASS
- ✓ Star rating to recognize your quality practices
- ✓ Coaching and technical assistance
- ✓ Financial incentives for your program
- ✓ A shared quality commitment to Arizona's youngest learners

Changes will go into effect starting in July 2023.



Quality First Revision

Three Levels of Support for Quality Improvement



Movement between levels (as star rating changes) is expected

If a program decreases their star rating, they will receive all supports **except** financial incentives at the level they move to.



What this means for your program

- **Three levels of support**

Three levels of support will now be available, each providing a different level of assistance. You'll be placed in a level based on your star rating and quality improvement needs. Levels include: Pursuing Quality, Achieving Quality, and Continuing Quality.
- **More flexibility**

Now you'll have more flexibility with your coach, so you can use more hours when you need them and less when you don't. Some participants will have access to coaching upon request.
- **Incentives**

Participants will have access to varying levels of incentives based on their star rating and level of support. Incentives will focus on quality improvement and even staff recognition and achievement.
- **Access to resources**

You will have more access to resources online and in person to benefit your program. Also, you can now join us on social media to stay connected and informed.
- **New support role**

You'll receive orientation, onboarding and participation support from a Quality First Coordinator. Whether you are new to Quality First or have new staff, a coordinator is here to help you participate.
- **Child Care Health Consultation**

Partnering with a Child Care Health Consultant, you'll receive more help with health and safety needs than ever before.

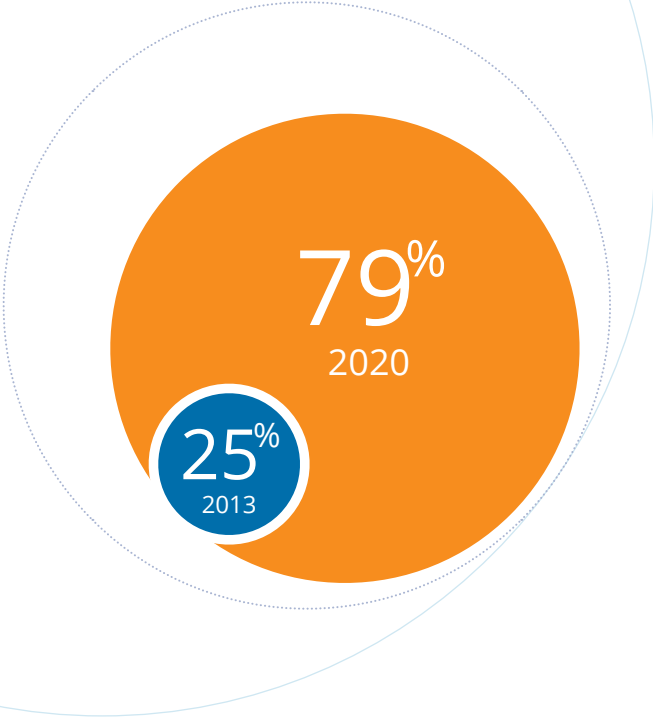


Why the Changes to Quality First?

Continuous Quality Improvement

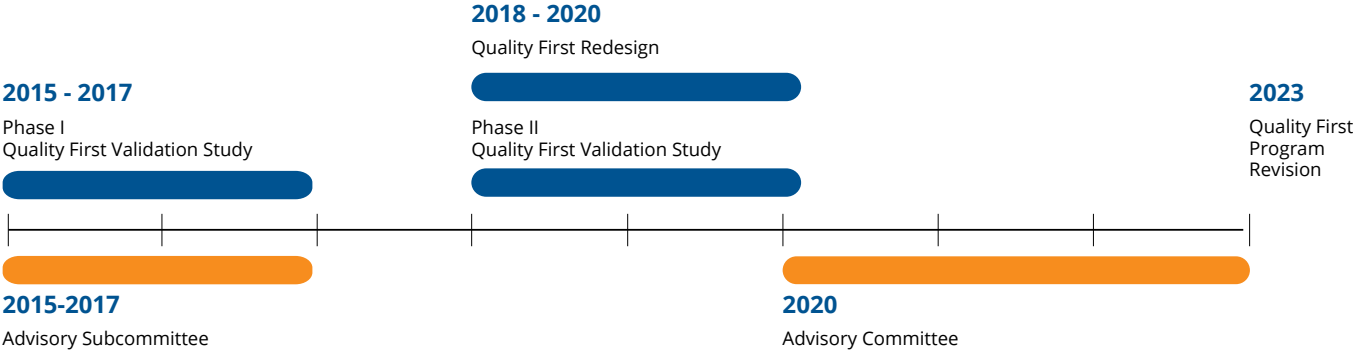
Continuous quality improvement is an ongoing process that takes commitment over time, consistent effort, and adjustments along the way. First Things First has spent several years researching Quality First, connecting with national experts and listening to feedback from the field, and to you, the Quality First Participant. All of this has informed the improvements we're making, resulting in a revision to Quality First.

Quality First helps participants improve the quality of their early learning programs. In 2013 only 25% of 857 Quality First providers met or exceeded quality levels with rigorous standards. In 2020 that number had increased to 79% of 1016 providers. This is a huge step forward for early learning in Arizona.



Data Informed Revision

To inform our system of support, we conducted research and gathered feedback from current participants to bring more flexibility and more targeted support that will help impact more of Arizona's children.




What's next?


Beginning January 2023, the Quality First team will be hosting live events in communities and online, so you can learn more about these updates.

How can you prepare?

- ✓ Attend a webinar or in-person event to learn more about these improvements
- ✓ Make sure you're registered on the Arizona Early Childhood Workforce Registry so you can access upcoming information sessions
- ✓ Share updates with your colleagues as you continue to learn about the revisions to Quality First
- ✓ Stay connected by visiting our website and social media accounts

 QualityFirstAZ.com

 Facebook.com/QualityFirstAZ

 @QualityFirstAZ

Questions? Contact us.

Email: QualityFirst@FirstThingsFirst.org

Phone: 602-771-5000

Scan here to stay up to date and find more information about the Quality First revision.



QUALITY FIRST

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QualityFirstAZ.com/programupdates