



Rising Stars for ME Standards: Family Child Care (12 or fewer children), Licensed and License-Exempt

**Standard 1: Learning Environment/Developmentally Appropriate Practice**

Star 1★	Star 2★★	Star 3★★★	Star 4★★★★	Star 5★★★★★
<p>To attain and maintain Star 1, a program must meet the following Requirements, as defined by the Child Care Subsidy Program Rules:</p>	<p>To attain and maintain Star 2, a program must be licensed.</p>	<p>To attain and maintain Star 3, a program must attain a Star 2 and meet the following Requirements:</p>	<p>To attain and maintain Star 4, a program must continue to meet Star 3 Requirements AND meet the following Requirements:</p>	<p>To attain and maintain Star 5, a program must continue to meet Star 3 &amp; 4 Requirements AND meet the following Requirements:</p>
<p>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 1.</p>	<p>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 2.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The program's activities and experiences are guided by a general understanding of the developmental domains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social/Emotional;</li> <li>• Cognitive;</li> <li>• Physical (gross and fine motor; self-help skills);</li> <li>• Language/</li> <li>• Communication Skills;</li> <li>• Approaches to Learning.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. The method for planning activities and experiences is based on children's interests, skills, and abilities.</li> <li>3. The program posts and follows a daily</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The program has an articulated approach to learning and development. This can be met in one of the following ways: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. An evidence-based curriculum, such as OWL, HighScope, Creative Curriculum, PreK for ME, etc.</li> <li>b. Following a specific program philosophy, such as Montessori, Waldorf, Reggio Emilia, Lifeways, etc.</li> <li>c. Using the Head Start Child Development and Learning</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The program holds current accreditation from the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) or the American Montessori Society (AMS).</li> </ol>



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		<p>schedule that supports child-centered play and exploration, both indoors and outdoors, and is responsive to the interests and developmental needs of the children and youth.</p> <p>4. Materials and equipment are developmentally appropriate, accessible, and reflect all children's interests, skills, abilities. The materials and equipment represent the children, youth, and families served.</p> <p>5. The program has a clearly stated policy addressing suspension and</p>	<p>Framework to guide curriculum.</p> <p>d. Using a program-generated method of curriculum development.</p> <p>2. The activity planning supports children's positive social and emotional development using strategies with all children and youth that include: providing choices, using redirection, reflection, and program solving, and setting clear rules and expectations.</p>	



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		<p>expulsion and supports available for children with social and emotional and/or behavioral health needs.</p> <p>6. <b>For programs serving children ages six weeks to kindergarten:</b> The Program Owner has completed the training(s) relevant to all ages enrolled in the program: <i>Infant and Toddler Maine Early Learning and Development Requirements</i> (Infant Toddler MELDS) for ages birth to three years; <i>Maine's Early Learning and Development Requirements</i> (MELDS)</p>		



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		<p>for ages three years to kindergarten.</p> <p>7. <b>For programs serving children ages six weeks to kindergarten:</b> The <i>Infant and Toddler MELDS</i> and <i>MELDS</i> documents are referred to during activity planning.</p> <p>8. <b>For programs serving children ages six weeks to thirty-six:</b> The activities are individualized to each child's routines and rhythms.</p>		

RISING STARS FOR ME  
Maine's Quality Rating and Improvement System



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**Standard 2: Program Evaluation**

Star 1★	Star 2★★	Star 3★★★	Star 4★★★★	Star 5★★★★★
<p>To attain and maintain Star 1, a program must meet the following Requirements, as defined by the Child Care Subsidy Program Rules:</p>	<p>To attain and maintain Star 2, a program must be licensed.</p>	<p>To attain and maintain Star 3, a program must attain a Star 2 and meet the following Requirements:</p>	<p>To attain and maintain Star 4, a program must continue to meet Star 3 Requirements AND meet the following Requirements:</p>	<p>To attain and maintain Star 5, a program must continue to meet Star 3 &amp; 4 Requirements AND meet the following Requirements:</p>
<p>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 1.</p>	<p>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 2.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The program completes an annual Family Survey to gather input on the program's strengths and opportunities.</li> <li>The program completes the <i>Rising Stars for ME Inclusive Practices Checklist</i> on an annual basis for the following categories: Prerequisites and TWO other categories of its choice.</li> <li>The program writes a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Plan based upon the results from and Family Survey and the <i>Rising Stars for ME Inclusive Practices Checklist</i>.</li> <li>Programs with staff hold staff meetings at least quarterly that include</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The program conducts an annual self-assessment based on NAFCC or AMS accreditation Requirements.</li> <li>The program completes all categories of the <i>Rising Stars for ME Inclusive Practices Checklist</i> on an annual basis.</li> <li>The program includes results from the NAFCC self-assessment and all categories of the <i>Rising Stars for ME Inclusive Practices Checklist</i> in its CQI Plan.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The program holds current accreditation from the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) or the American Montessori Society (AMS).</li> </ol>



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		discussions regarding the CQI plan.		

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**Standard 3: Staff Qualifications and Professional Development**

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<p>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 1.</p>	<p>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 2.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Program Owner is at a Level 3 or above on the MRTQ Direct Care Career Lattice.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Program Owner is at a Level 4 or above on the MRTQ Direct Care Career Lattice.</li> <li>2. The Program Owner and any staff create an individual annual Professional Development Plan addressing their training and education goals.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The program holds current accreditation from the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) or the American Montessori Society (AMS).</li> </ol>



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**Standard 4: Administration and Business Practices**

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<p>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 1.</p>	<p>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 2.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All staff have a written job description defining job responsibilities (if applicable).</li> <li>2. The Program Owner has completed the six-hour on-demand training <i>Supporting Inclusion: Laws and Practices</i>.</li> <li>3. Programs with staff provide monthly opportunities for individual supervision (if applicable).</li> <li>4. All staff are evaluated at least annually by a supervisor to refine their skills through feedback and guidance (if applicable).</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The program uses an appropriate tool to measure the overall quality of their business and professional practices annually.</li> <li>2. The Program Owner (person/persons listed on the license) is/are on-site at least 80% of the time (may be averaged over time).</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The program holds current accreditation from the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) or the American Montessori Society (AMS).</li> </ol>

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**Standard 5: Family Engagement and Partnership**

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<p>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 1.</p>	<p>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 2.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The program provides families with regular communication and updates on the program in ways that support varied literacy levels, abilities, family culture and home language.</li> <li>2. The program provides information for families on local and state resources available related to individual child and family needs.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The program offers families at least one conference per year to discuss their child's cognitive, social emotional, and physical development and needs</li> <li>2. The program has a policy addressing its participation in Individualized Family Support Plans (IFSP) and/or Individualized Education Plans (IEP).</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The program holds current accreditation from the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) or the American Montessori Society (AMS).</li> </ol>



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Standard 6: Child and Youth Assessment				
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There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 1.	There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 2.	1. At least once per year, the program collects and summarizes evidence of the children's development in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social/Emotional;</li> <li>• Cognitive;</li> <li>• Physical (gross and fine motor; self-help skills);</li> <li>• Language/Communication Skills;</li> <li>• Approaches to Learning;</li> </ul> and incorporates this evidence into curriculum planning.	1. At least twice per year, the program collects and summarizes evidence of the children's development in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social/Emotional;</li> <li>• Cognitive;</li> <li>• Physical (gross and fine motor; self-help skills);</li> <li>• Language/Communication Skills;</li> <li>• Approaches to Learning;</li> </ul> and incorporates this evidence into curriculum planning.	1. The program holds current accreditation from the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) or the American Montessori Society (AMS).



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**Standard 7: Health, Safety, Nutrition, and Physical Activity**

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<p>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 1.</p>	<p>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 2.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The program completes an annual nutrition/physical activity baseline self-assessment, then develops and implements an action plan to achieve one strategy for improvement.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The program completes an annual nutrition/physical activity baseline self-assessment, then develops and implements an action plan to achieve two strategies for improvement.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The program holds current accreditation from the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) or the American Montessori Society (AMS).</li> </ol>