



The Halton Resource Connection

*Supporting Quality Child
Care and Early Learning*

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Supports and Services
available through THRC.

Resource Library
info@thrc.ca

Professional Development
info@thrc.ca



qualityfirst@thrc.ca

Child Care Directory and
Information Line
childcaresearch@thrc.ca
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Quality First in the Halton Community 2010

A Model for the Future



Overview of Quality First

Quality First is an initiative providing all licensed child care programs in Halton region with the opportunity to participate in a developmental model for quality improvement. Quality First is currently being offered to infant/toddler, preschool, and school-age programs.

The Quality First developmental model is based on

- Training in the use of evaluation tools (such as the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised, the Caregiver Interaction Scale/Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale – Revised/ School Aged Environment Rating Scale, and the Inclusion Quality Scale)
- Support in the use of these evaluation tools for program and professional development
- Training and support for the development of new skills and knowledge in the following 6 quality indicator areas
 - Environment/Curriculum
 - Professionalism
 - Adult-Child Interactions
 - Inclusion
 - Administration and Supervision
 - Support for ECE College Students

Mission Statement

Quality First will facilitate positive, meaningful, and sustained change in the design and delivery of quality care and learning in the Halton child care community by:

- developing the professionalism of individuals involved in the care and education of young children
- improving the level of quality indicators in children's programs
- collaborating with local colleges to promote the professional readiness of early childhood educators

Vision Statement

Quality First for all children, families, and professionals
throughout the childcare community in Halton.

Together we make quality happen.

Knowledge.Collaboration.Excellence.Empowerment.



Quality First is a program of The Halton Resource Connection



What is involved in joining Quality First?

When you join Quality First, you are making a commitment to participate in a process of training, professional development, observations, goal setting and self-reflection exercises specifically designed to increase the quality of care and learning you offer to children and families.

Quality First continues to be a benefit to many components of the child care sector:

For the Child Care System in Halton

- The benefits of programs participating in a quality initiative.

For Community Volunteers

- Through participation in professional development, sharing of knowledge, networking and support to enhance skills in their roles.

For Child Care Supervisors & Centre Staff

- Through increased networking opportunities with other professionals, focused training, supports based on goals, pride in accomplishments and value of the work.

For Parents

- Through knowledge of quality indicators in child care and confidence selecting an environment committed to the development and delivery of quality child care.

For Children

- Through enhanced care and learning within enriched environments

There are two distinct developmental models available

- 1) Centre-based Model – for all licensed classrooms housed on-site: infant to school-age
- 2) School-age Model – for licensed school-age programs that are “stand-alone” or off-site from the home organization.

The Centre-based Model consists of 3 Levels

Foundational Level I, 1 Year

The Supervisor and *Centre Mentor** receive training, supports and networking opportunities to build the foundation for success solely focussing on the centre-based activities in each quality indicator. In this introductory level the staff team will participate in a Quality First Overview and Reflective Practice activities

Consultant level of support – Your assigned Consultant will work directly with the centre and will be on-site on a monthly basis.

**Centre Mentor*: an individual who actively supports the QF work with the Centre supervisor chosen by the centre.

Developmental Level II, 18 Months (Pre-requisite: Completion of Foundational Level I)

This Level incorporates training and supports, which includes the entire staff team. During this time the Supervisor and Centre Mentor will have in-depth training on each of the tools introduced in the model and will begin to observe in each of the classrooms. The Supervisor and classroom teachers collaborate to develop goals and action plans for each assessment tool along with in-house training and professional development.

Consultant level of support – Your Consultant will assist the Supervisor and Centre Mentor to complete a portion of the observations and will provide on-site support for the centre on a bi-monthly basis.

Progressive Level III, 1 Year (Pre-requisite: Completion of Developmental Level II)

The Supervisor and Centre Mentor continue to implement the tools in each of the classrooms. In this Level rooms are expected to achieve certain scores as per Quality First standards. The centre continues to participate in training and networking activities that are relevant to the continued development of the centre and staff.

Consultant level of support – Your Consultant will complete third party observations in one of the Infant/Toddler/Preschool rooms for one of the assessment tools each year and will provide on-site support for the centre on a quarterly basis.

Progressive Level III, – 1 Year (Annual Commitment)

To maintain your Progressive Level III status Supervisors must re-enrol each year and uphold the expectations of a Progressive Level III site.

Consultant level of support – Your Consultant will complete third party observations in one of the Infant/Toddler/Preschool rooms for one of the assessment tools each year and will provide on-site support for the centre on a quarterly basis.



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Registration Annual Timelines

MODEL	START DATE	REGISTRATION Cut off	START DATE	REGISTRATION Cut off
Centre-based	May 1 st	April 19 th	Nov 1 st , 2010	Oct 17 th , 2010

Fees and Payments (Payment plans available)

	Centre-based model	Cost
Level I/II Foundational/ Developmental	Base rate for start up licensed capacity of up to 24 spaces	\$250
	25 to 48 licensed spaces	\$350
	49 to 72 licensed spaces	\$450
	73 to 100 licensed spaces	\$550
	101 to 150 licensed spaces	\$650
	151 to 225 licensed spaces	\$750
	226 to 300 licensed spaces	\$850
	300 and over	\$1000
Level III Progressive	Annual renewal fee for Progressive Level (upon completion of Levels I and II)	\$150/year

Payment Plan:

50% of the fee upon registration and the balance by Dec. 1st

What will I receive as a Quality First Participant?

1. A one year membership to The Halton Resource Connection for the Supervisor or Centre Mentor
2. Quality First training throughout your participation
3. Quality First Participant binder
4. Quality First participation poster to display for parents and visitors
5. USB key with the Quality First templates and working forms
6. Materials required for self-study and observations
7. Your organization's name and Level advertised in THRC Publications
8. Your organization's name and Level posted on the Quality First website
9. A direct link from your website to The Halton Resource Connection website
10. Access to the Quality First logo for your website or advertising materials
11. Quality First promotional material

How do I register?

Once you have committed to participating in Quality First, applications can be found on our website. Payment can be made either by phone using a credit card or by cheque made payable to Milton Community Resource Centre.

For Payment/Registration, please contact the Program Assistant, Erin McAdam
Phone: (905) 875-4600 ext. 141
Email: erinm@thrc.ca

For questions, please contact the Project Coordinator, Tina Santonato
Phone: (905) 875-4600 ext.104
Email: qualityfirst@thrc.ca

www.thrc.ca

Supporting Quality Care and Learning for all Children and Youth



Quality First is a program of The Halton Resource Connection

The off site School-age model consists of 3 Phases

This model is designed for off-site school-age programs. The model takes place over a 10 month period broken down into 3 Phases running from September to June. This is a unique model whereby it specifically focuses on the school-age teacher and child. Participants in this model receive training, support, and networking opportunities based on the indicators of quality.

By the end of Phase 3 participants will be able to implement the observation tools* independently and meet the score expectations outlined in the model be available as a College placement site and have an increased awareness of community supports and resources for School-age children.

To maintain your Quality First status, Supervisors must re-enrol each year for the Maintenance Phase and uphold the outlined expectations.

Consultant level of support: Your consultant will complete a sampling of observations for one of the tools each year and will provide on-site support for the centre on a quarterly basis.

*Observation Tools – School Age Care Environment Rating Scale, Caregiver Interaction Scale, Inclusion Quality Scale

Registration Timelines

MODEL	START DATE	REGISTRATION Cut off
School-age	Sept 1 st	August 16 th

Fees and Payments (Payment plans available)

	School-age model	Cost
Phase 1, 2 & 3	Registration fee	\$175
	Additional rooms (up to 3 max in one organization)	\$50
Phase 1, 2 & 3	Annual Maintenance re-enrolment fee (upon completion of 10 month model)	\$100
	Maintenance rooms	\$25

What will I receive as a School-age Participant?

1. A one year membership to The Halton Resource Connection for the Supervisor
2. Quality First training throughout your participation
3. Quality First Participant Binder
4. Quality First participation poster to display for parents and visitors
5. Materials required for observations
6. Your organization's name and Phase advertised in THRC Publications
7. Your organization's name and Phase posted on the Quality First website
8. A link from your website directly to The Halton Resource Connection website
9. Access to our logo for your website or advertising materials
10. Quality First promotional material

How do I register?

Once you have committed to participating in Quality First school-age program, applications can be found on our website.

Payment can be made either by phone using a credit card or by cheque made payable to Milton Community Resource Centre.

For Payment/Registration, please contact the Program Assistant, Erin McAdam

Phone: (905) 876-1244 ext. 41

Email: erinm@thrc.ca

For questions, please contact the Quality First School-age Specialist, Melanie Cunha

Phone: (905) 875-4600 ext. 106

Email: melaniec@thrc.ca

www.thrc.ca

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