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**Hop on Quality Child Care:**  
The Importance of Quality Early Care and Education for Hopkins Families.

## Today's Goals

- Understand the role of quality child care and early education for a child's lifelong outcomes
- Identify free resources for finding quality programs in your area
- Know key look-fors and considerations when evaluating the best fit of care for their child

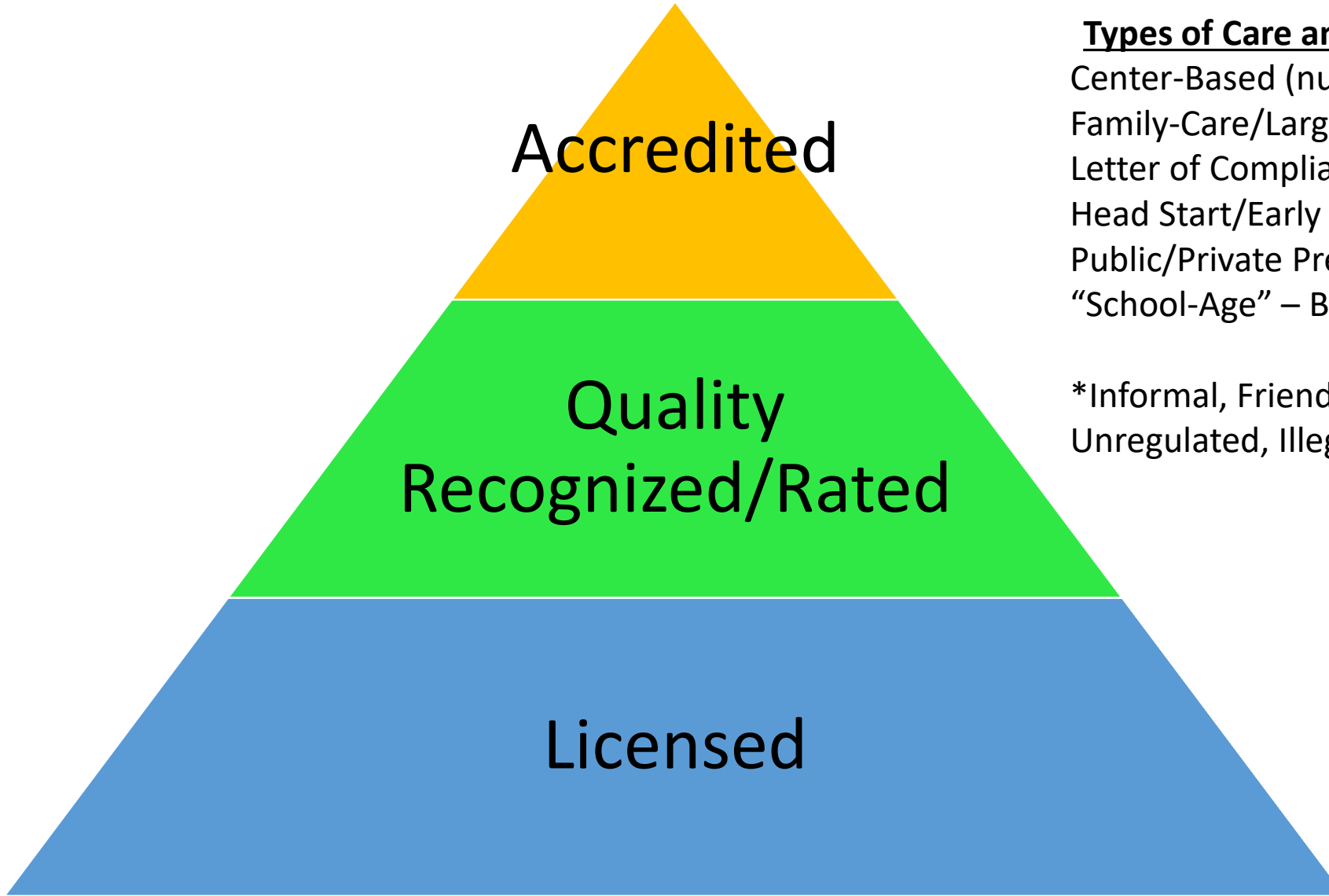


# What is Quality?

Quality Early Care and Education (ECE) have these elements:

- 1) Positive interpersonal interactions between adults and children;
- 2) Safe, engaging, and developmentally appropriate environments, inclusive of curriculum and materials, designed to stimulate the child;
- 3) An effective operational model that ensures qualified and competent personnel are consistent in a child's life; that there are sufficient resources – from diapers to learning materials; and suitable adult: child ratios are maintained;
- 4) Families are treated as partners to ensure continuous nurturing of the child's growth across home and school.





## Types of Care and Early Education

Center-Based (nursery)  
Family-Care/Large-Family  
Letter of Compliance Facilities  
Head Start/Early Head Start  
Public/Private PreK  
“School-Age” – Before/After

\*Informal, Friends & Family,  
Unregulated, Illegal Care



## Finding Quality Near You

- a) [www.marylandexcels.org](http://www.marylandexcels.org)
- b) <https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/for-parents/locate-child-care>
- c) Quality Rating/Recognition Improvement Systems (QRIS) - <https://qualitycompendium.org/>
- d) <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/child-care-scholarship-program>



# What Does Quality ECE Look Like?

- Licensed
- Play!
- Quality Recognized and/or Accredited
- No suspension/expulsion policy and positive behavioral practices
- Staff credentials/training
- Staffing ratios (<https://childcare.gov/consumer-education/ratios-and-group-sizes>)
- Resource sharing and family partnerships
- Policies and processes in place



# Questions to Ask

Do you participate in Maryland EXCELS/your state's QRIS? If so, what's your quality level? If not, why?

Can I see your past three years of licensing inspection reports? Are there any issues I should be aware of?

Tell me about the morning routine. How will my child be greeted into the program each day?

What is your philosophy on helping a child thrive during this time?

How do you actively promote and model diversity, equity, inclusion, and acceptance within your program?

Tell me about the daily routines?

How do you implement Developmentally Appropriate Practice?

How much child initiated time is in the program?

How do you address challenging behaviors?

Can I talk with three of your past families? Can I talk to your neighbors?

What education, training, and experience do your personnel have? What are their strongest competencies?

How will we partner together to nurture my child?

What are your fees and associated costs?





thank you

