



Bright & Early

NORTH DAKOTA

FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER



IN THE LOOP

What's New with Bright & Early ND

by Pam Palmer, Program Manager

We are thrilled with the decision our partner, Child Care Aware of ND, has made to require applicants for any of their initiatives/scholarships to be, at minimum, a [Step 1 Quality Rated program](#)! As we continue to make Bright & Early ND the framework for Early Childhood in North Dakota, this just streamlines that process. We are following the trend of other states to use QRIS to link supports for quality improvement into a broad and inclusive infrastructure; doing this provides assurance that investments and supports are tied to standards and a system of accountability. In short, you have worked hard to be recognized for your quality program, it makes sense to reward you for that hard work!

STEP 1

Organization Account Reminder

by Pam Palmer, Program Manager



Many of you may have received an email from me recently asking you to create a Growing Futures Organization Account and make sure you and your staff are listed as employees of your Organization. This standard went into place July 1st, 2017 so we are trying to reach all programs that have not yet created an account. If you are unsure about your status or have questions please call our office asap. Not completing this requirement by December 31st, 2017 will impact your Quality Rating status!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Bright & Early ND will have a booth at the NDECA* Conference in Fargo on October 14th.

*North Dakota Early Childhood Advocates (formerly known as NDAEYC)

The Bright & Early ND Team loves to spread the word at local events, conferences, association meetings, etc. Please let us know about events in your area that we could attend to share information, answer questions and gather feedback.

BRIGHT & EARLY ND CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to all the programs that have become Bright & Early ND Quality Rated as of October 1st, 2017!

STEP 1 QUALITY RATED

Pam Verke's Daycare
Curious Kids Childcare
The Puzzle Place Childcare Center
Grand Forks Montessori
Cando Community Child Care
MSU Child Development Program-Central Valley
MSU Child Development Program-Hillsboro Elementary
MSU Child Development Program-Portland
Acorn Hollow ELC & Montessori of Minot Preschool
Little Rascals Daycare
Learning Adventures Childcare
Savana Nystrom
Little Hero's Daycare
Bright Minds LLC
Altru Family YMCA
D&T's Daycare
Giggles & Grin's Childcare & Preschool
YMCA Early Learning Center at Calvary

STEP 2 QUALITY RATED

Lil'Sprouts Daycare

STEP 3 QUALITY RATED

Titan Tot's
All About Kids

"The most valuable resource that all teachers have is each other. Without **collaboration** our **growth** is limited to our own perspectives."

Robert John Meehan

STEP 2

ERS[®] Pilot Phase

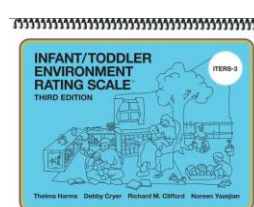
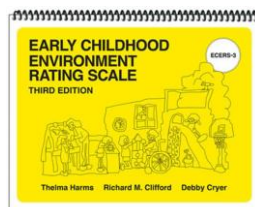
by Stacy Knudson, Program Specialist



Starting January 2018, Bright & Early ND will be transitioning to the new ECERS-3[®] and ITERS-3[®] tools. ECERS-3[®] and ITERS-3[®] are the most recently updated versions of the ERS observation tools from the ERS Institute. The new tools build upon the importance of the appropriateness and variety of materials with an enhanced focus on teaching and interactions. The focus shifts from the number of items you have available, to how you respond, interact, and engage with the children and the materials you offer. There is also a strong focus on the type and amount of language used with children.

There have been no changes to the FCCERS-R[®] tool. What does this mean to you? Programs joining Step 2 during either the January or April 2018 cohort that would use one of these tools will be able to choose which version they would like to use for their observations: ECERS-R[®]/ITERS-R[®] or ECERS-3[®]/ITERS-3[®]. Starting July 2018, all programs participating at Step 2 will have the newest version. Renewal programs will also be assessed using the newest version: ECERS-3[®] and ITERS-3[®]. We highly recommend that programs participating in January and April use the newest version, but that choice is yours.

We understand that change is hard, but don't worry – we have several opportunities coming to help you learn all about the updated tools. Keep your eyes open for a new training calendar from Bright & Early ND. We will be providing trainings across the state so you can find a training that best suits your needs. Your Child Care Aware coaches are also available to help!





STEP 3

MyTeachingStrategies™

by Stacy Knudson, Program Specialist

Teaching Strategies GOLD, the assessment system used at Step 3, has streamlined their processes. The new platform is now called MyTeachingStrategies™.

MyTeachingStrategies™ brings together the classroom tools and resources that providers need to support their most important daily activities – teaching, assessing, reporting, connecting with families, and developing their own knowledge and skills – onto one streamlined, user-friendly platform. As an educator, you spend your days engaging in so many different elements of high-quality program practice—from teaching and assessing, to reporting, to connecting with families, to growing your professional knowledge on an ongoing basis. Programs working towards and/or have achieved Step 3 will focus on using the ASSESS (where you enter and review documentation), REPORT (the different reports offered), & DEVELOP (Interrater Reliability and professional development courses) tabs of MyTeachingStrategies™ (this is what was carried over from GOLD); however, the other 2 tabs, TEACH and FAMILIES are beneficial and FREE for participants to use. They work seamlessly together and are easy to use. Check out page 4 of the newsletter for some free professional development opportunities and demo information!

STEP 4

All About CLASS®

by Stacy Knudson, Program Specialist



Programs working towards their Step 4 rating have been utilizing myTeachstone®. myTeachstone® is an online subscription service that is designed to combine CLASS observation data with individualized professional development resources. Providers take courses, watch videos, chat with their coach, and have access to additional professional development resources that relate to their observation reports. Providers have streamlined information that is relevant to the areas they are working on. No need to focus on areas you are already strong at if you don't want to – focus on what you want to improve! It's as easy as that!



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Stay Connected Online



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MyTeachingStrategies™ Online Courses

Check out the links below for some great resources pertaining to MyTeachingStrategies™

MyTeachingStrategies™ Orientations for GOLD® Users: Administrators

<https://teachingstrategies.com/myteachingstrategies/upgrade-administrator/>

MyTeachingStrategies™ Orientations for GOLD® Users: Teachers

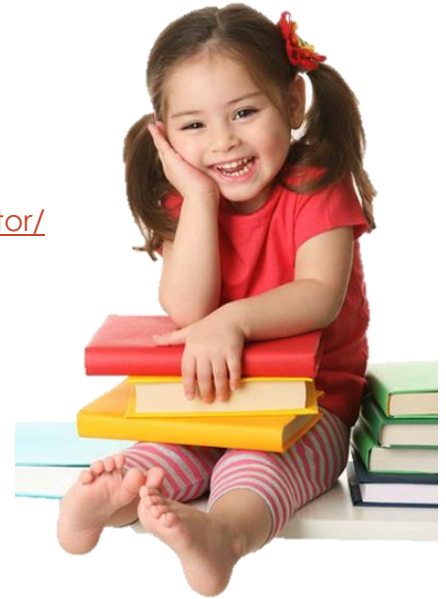
<https://teachingstrategies.com/myteachingstrategies/upgrade-teacher/>

Accessing and Navigating MyTeachingStrategies™

<https://vimeo.com/212262038/2567c0d6a5>

Documentation App

<https://teachingstrategies.com/solutions/assess/gold/gold-app/>



Our Bright & Early ND Team is expanding!!

Due to the support of QRIS within North Dakota we are growing!! Do you know someone that shares our vision of making sure all North Dakota children have quality opportunities that prepare them for school and beyond? We are looking for someone to provide observations and support in Western North Dakota. We are a fun, dedicated team with a passion for QRIS! Interested? [Apply](#) today! (<http://www.lssnd.org/employment/>)

NOW HIRING
Bright & Early ND Specialist - Early Beginnings
Part-time 25 hrs/week
Location is flexible in western ND

- Join our dynamic, caring, & courageous team
- Facilitate observation process
- Provide training & technical assistance to observers
- Review & approve summary reports
- Bachelor's in Early Childhood or closely related field
- 2 year prior work related experience
- Experience with ERS & CLASS
- Valid driver's license

Apply online at www.lssnd.org/employment
Lutheran Social Services of ND is an equal opportunity employer

*Position is open until filled

HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

Contact Your Bright & Early ND Team



Tara Wateland
Program Specialist



Pam Palmer
Program Manager



Stacy Knudson
Program Specialist