



## Get to Know Bright & Early ND

Bright & Early ND is North Dakota's voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). The QRIS is designed to showcase and support childcare and early education programs that go above and beyond to improve their quality of care.

Bright & Early ND is based on these four quality standards:

- Step 1: Health & Safety
- Step 2: Space & Materials
- Step 3: Activities & Experiences
- Step 4: Relationships & Interactions

## Bright & Early ND

### Benefits

Since day one, Bright & Early ND has made it a priority to recognize and reward providers for going above and beyond! Are you looking to enhance your environment or add new learning materials? Want recognition for a job well done? You've got it. You'll have support every step of the way with these exclusive benefits at your fingertips.

- Access to **exclusive benefits** like free and reduced training opportunities.
- **Name recognition** on Bright & Early ND's social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter.
- Placement on the Bright & Early ND **Quality Rated Program Map**. Check out our website to see it in action!
- Once awarded a Step 2, Step 3, or Step 4 Quality Rating, your program will receive **Quality Rating Award Dollars** for a job well done (*dollar amount based on enrollment*), see the Bright & Early ND Handbook for details.
- Free marketing tools & support.

## About Bright & Early ND

Bright & Early ND is an initiative led by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and is part of a national movement to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in childcare and early education programs across our state.

By participating in Bright & Early ND, you are demonstrating to children, families, and the greater community that your program is dedicated to continuous quality improvement. Bright & Early ND recognizes programs for going above and beyond and delivers professional rewards for a job well done. It is a must for providers trying to influence and change kids' lives in a positive way!

## Why Quality Matters

In the first five years of life, a child's brain develops faster than any other time in their life. In fact, more than one million new neural connections are formed every second. By age five, 90% of their brain has developed. The experiences children have during this period will have a lasting impact. That's what makes high-quality early care and education so important.

To maximize the learning that occurs in the early years, The Department of Human Services created Bright & Early ND to support your important work and recognize you for a job well done.

## Where Can I Learn More?

We recommend checking out our website, [www.brightnd.org](http://www.brightnd.org), for the latest Bright & Early ND information!

Here you will find details on each of the Steps to Quality as well as our current Playbook, Handbook, and tutorials on how to apply for Bright & Early ND!



# What's Next?

## Review the Bright & Early ND Playbook

You're busy. We get it. Bright & Early ND isn't going to give you more to do, it's going to show you what to focus on to get the maximum results for kids. We take the guesswork out of preparing children for kindergarten. Great school years start with great early childhood years- it's that simple.

The Bright & Early ND Playbook is your go-to-guide. It establishes a statewide level of quality and contains four steps proven to deliver positive results for children. Commit to carry out the steps in the Playbook and children in your program are more likely to enter kindergarten with the skills needed to be successful in school and life. View the Playbook online at

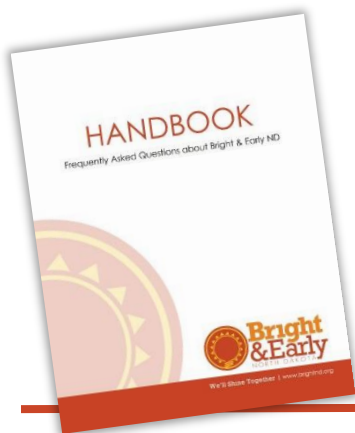
<https://www.brightnd.org/providers>.



## Have more questions?

The Bright & Early ND Handbook answers all of your burning questions. Quickly find the information you need by scrolling through the table of contents. View the handbook online at <https://www.brightnd.org/providers>.

Please email us at [QRIS@brightnd.org](mailto:QRIS@brightnd.org) if you have questions that are not answered in the Handbook and we will follow up with an answer.



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# Join Today

Bright & Early ND uses a block system approach which incorporates four standards, or steps, to quality. Each of the Bright & Early ND Steps to Quality focuses on a specific component of care and is composed of a consistent set of quality indicators that measure your program's practices. The Bright & Early ND Steps to Quality build upon each other to create a framework for continuous quality improvement. The outcome is a program that maximizes a child's readiness for school and life.

All licensed programs start at Step 1: Health & Safety. Children need to be healthy and feel safe to learn and grow. It is the first step in preparing children to be ready for school, work, and life. Programs can apply for a Step 1 Quality Rating at any time. We have partnered with Growing Futures to make the application process quick and streamlined.

Ready to get started? It's easy to apply. Log in to your ND Growing Futures account to access your organization profile. At the top, select the 'Quality' tab. Just above the Bright & Early ND logo you will see the 'Apply' tab. Select this and follow the steps to become a Bright & Early ND Quality Rated program.

Not familiar with your ND Growing Futures organization profile? No worries, every licensed program has one, you just need to register yours! With your organization account your program will have a place to track enrollment, gather classroom information, and have quick and easy access to employee Learning Records. You will also be ready to apply for Bright & Early ND. For details on how to set up your Growing Futures organization account, visit <https://www.ndgrowingfutures.org/organization-accounts>.

**We'll Shine Together | [www.brightnd.org](http://www.brightnd.org)**