

Quality Childcare

All children deserve quality care, regardless of where their care is coming from. Quality can mean many things and is always evolving. In Pueblo County, professionals agree quality, at minimum, should be safe, healthy, engaging, happy, and positive in any childcare setting.

A childcare provider's values, in the services they provide, ensure the child's environment is:
Safe, Healthy, Engaging, Happy, and Positive - SHEHP, "A step ahead in working toward high-quality childcare."

What does "safe" mean?

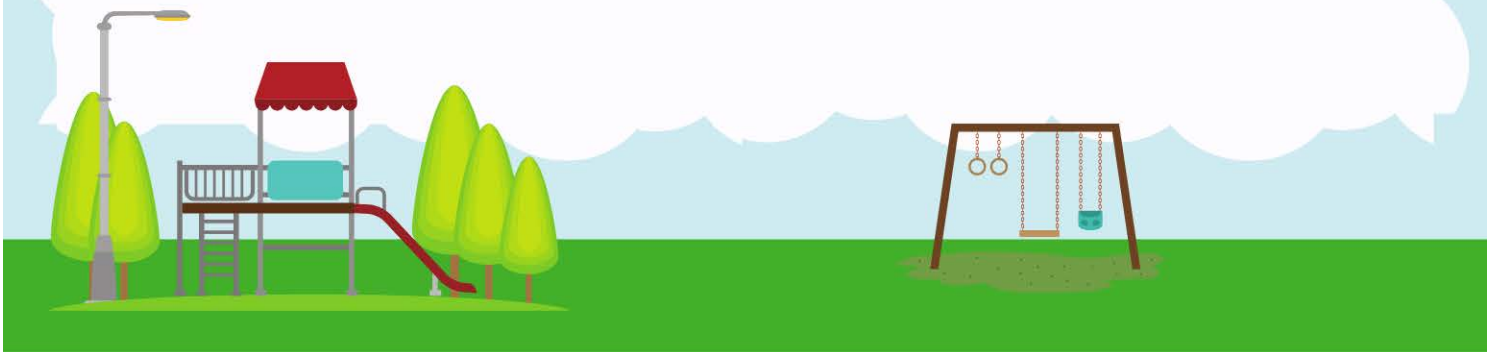
- Well-maintained settings where children feel calm and comfortable
- Small group sizes with appropriate adult-to-child ratios
- Facility is secure and protected
- Caregivers are well-trained and experienced in early childhood development
- Caregivers are certified in safety trainings such as CPR
- Caregivers are sensitive to parents' and children's needs

What does "healthy" mean?

- Clean settings where a variety of healthy food options are provided
- Facilitation of emotional growth is practiced, including activities which are mentally stimulating
- Children can be physically active during in-class activities as well as outside

What does "engaging" mean?

- Settings where parents/guardians feel welcome, communicated to, and can get involved
- Age-appropriate and flexible learning materials and teaching styles that promote success for children entering grade school
- Are respectful of cultural and ethnic backgrounds



What does “happy” mean?

- Settings children enjoy coming to every day
- Caregivers feel appreciated
- Parents/Guardians feel comfortable leaving children for several hours at a time
- Everyone feels proud to be part of the environment

What does “positive” mean?

- Settings where caregivers, parents/guardians, and children feel respected, heard, and valued
- Interactions between individuals are positive
- Environment is fun and inclusive
- Concerns or conflicts are handled calmly and appropriately

Local Childcare Resources

Bright by Text

brightbytext.org

Children First

pueblocc.edu/childrenfirst

719-549-3411

Catholic Charities

pueblocharities.org

719-544-4233

Colorado Office of Early Childhood

coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.force.com/oec

800-799-5876

Colorado Shines Quality Early Learning

coloradoshines.com

Early Minds Matter

earlymindsmatter.org

719-549-3411

Pueblo City-County Library District

pueblolibrary.org

719-562-5600

Pueblo County Department of Human Services Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP)

<https://bit.ly/PuebloCountyCCCAP>

719-225-6865

Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment

pueblohealth.org

Pueblo Step Up Resource Directory

pueblostepup.org/pueblo-resources-directory

719-557-5886

If you are providing care for children and would like access to specific resources and guidance to enhance the caregiving services you provide, please contact Children First.

If you are a parent looking to access childcare, please visit Colorado Shines Early Learning, as well as the Early Child Care Matters infographic on pueblohealth.org, Quality Childcare webpage.

