



Mentor Criteria

To qualify for participation in the Virginia Star Quality Initiative Mentors must comply with the following:

Minimum Qualifications

- Have an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education or related field. Exceptions to this may be granted based on a candidate's experience and background, and/or commitment towards pursuing a degree.
- Have strong communication and writing skills.
- Have three or more years of experience working in early childhood or a related field as a primary early care and education provider or in another leadership role.
- Be able to provide constructive feedback and suggestions to programs and collaborate with providers to draft and implement quality improvement plans in a respectful and professional manner.
- Mentors cannot have a conflicting role as a Star Quality Rater.
- Attend mandatory training for the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) and environment Rating Scale (ERS) instruments.
- Commit to maintaining expertise and skills through annual refresher training.
- Have knowledge of various regulating authority standards related to early childhood programs (Virginia Standards for Child Day Centers, Head Start, Board of Education, etc.).
- Maintain confidentiality concerning issues and information about children, families, staff, and programs.
- Commitment to ongoing professional development.

Preferred Qualifications

- Have a Bachelor's Degree in early childhood education, early intervention, educational psychology, developmental psychology or a related field.
- Trained with demonstrated reliability in CLASS and ERS instruments.
- Have experience working in the early childhood or a related field for five or more years.
- Commit to mentoring all programs assigned for at least 2 years.
- Have the ability to motivate others.

Provide evidence of

- A background check, including a sworn statement or affirmation, a criminal history record report, and a child protective services central registry check.
- Negative Tuberculosis screening.

Virginia's Star Quality Initiative is administered in partnership between the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation and the Office of Early Childhood Development.

Additional information may be found at:
www.smartbeginnings.org/qris or
www.earlychildhood.virginia.gov or by contacting
info.earlychildhood@dss.virginia.gov