



National
Infant & Toddler
Child Care
Initiative

ZERO TO THREE

A Project of the
Child Care
Bureau

Office of Family
Assistance,
U.S. Department
of Health and
Human Services

What Implications do QRIS Hold for Infant/Toddler Care?

September 29, 2008

Webinar resources are available at
www.zerotothree.org/policywebinars

Kathie Boling



NITCCI and QRIS

- Phase 2 - Learning Community
- Analysis of existing QRIS
- QRIS Issues Meeting – May 2008
- White Paper – Issue Meeting Outcome
- Webinar – Issues and Recommendations



Issues & Recommendations Emerge from Issue Meeting

- **Defining quality**
- **Measuring quality**
- **Supporting quality**
- **QRIS within the larger early childhood system**



Issues & Recommendations: Defining Quality

Infant needs require unique responses

- Vulnerability → Health & safety
- Developmental context → Relationships
- Developmental context → Experiences
- Learning through relationships → Continuity



Issues & Recommendations: Defining Quality

Curriculum for infants and toddlers

- Infants and toddlers have their own learning agenda
- Need for routines
- Usefulness of Early Learning Guidelines

An appropriate I/T Curriculum is individualized



Issues & Recommendations: Defining Quality

Learning Environment

- Emotional (affective) environment
- Physical environment
- Culture attunement

Family & Parent Engagement



Issues & Recommendations: Measuring Quality

Aspects of quality are difficult to measure

- Assessing relationships
- Assessing continuity
- Assessing curriculum

Inadequacy of existing tools



Diversity of settings

Issues & Recommendations: Supporting Quality

Professional Development

- Lack of I/T workforce
- Lack of I/T-specific education or training
- Need for I/T Core Knowledge & Competencies
- Across all care settings



Issues & Recommendations: Supporting Quality

Administrative Program Policies

- Group size and ratio
- Communication with families
- Continuity and relationships
- Staff retention



Issues & Recommendations

QRIS within the larger early childhood system

QRIS standards should reflect the critical needs of I/T throughout all levels of the system

QRIS should include a track appropriate to the settings and expectations for FFN care

And States should examine developing and existing QRIS systems to assure that their system does not allow a “loophole” for infant/toddler quality



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U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
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