

NH's Former Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)

NH has a voluntary quality rating system for licensed child care providers. NH currently has three designations for quality child care: Licensed, Licensed Plus, and Accreditation (accredited programs). Families can use this information to inform their choices for quality child care.

Licensed

Licensed programs include child care centers and family child care homes. The Child Care Licensing Unit regulates quality based on the following aspects of child care:

Ratio: The number of children per adult in a home or classroom

Group Size: The total number of children

Health: Policies and practices around illness, immunization, nutrition, cleanliness, and preventing the spread of germs

Safety: Practices to make sure the environment is safe, both indoors and outdoors. This includes practices around First Aid and Infant and Child CPR training for staff, fire precautions, criminal background checks, etc.

Training, education and experience of the provider: Assures that providers are knowledgeable in child development and other related topics

[Child Care Licensing Information >](#)

Licensed Plus

Licensed Plus is a quality rating in New Hampshire. It means that a child care program has all of the practices above and beyond required licensing standards. Programs who are Licensed Plus may be in the process of becoming accredited. To learn more visit Licensed Plus.

[View programs that have a Licensed Plus designation >](#)

Accreditation

Accredited programs have gone through a process of self-study and outside evaluation and have met higher standards of quality child care.

National accrediting associations include:

[National Association for the Education of Young Children \(NAEYC\)](#)-accredits child care centers.

[National Association for Family Child Care \(NAFCC\)](#)-accredits providers that care for children in the provider's own home.

[Council on Accreditation \(COA\)](#)-accredits programs that provide care when school-age children are not in school.