



## Paths to QUALITY™

- A voluntary rating and improvement system for child care and early education
- 4 rating levels that recognize programs for improvements
- A tool for parents that can help with child care selection
- Supports and recognizes programs for their work

### Look for the Decal!

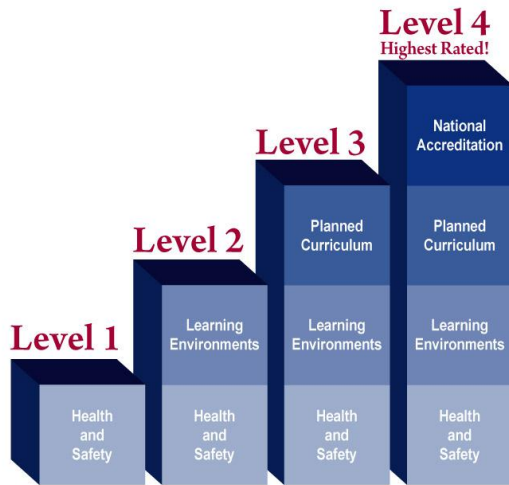
The decal is displayed at child care programs that have joined Paths to QUALITY™. Each decal displays the level that the child care provider has achieved.

### Why should Paths to QUALITY™ matter?

The first five years of life is the most important time for growth of the human brain. Research shows that high quality early learning experiences prepare children for future success in school, work, and life. Paths to QUALITY helps families choose high quality child care.

### What does each Paths to QUALITY™ level mean?

Each rating level represents a very special achievement for our providers. Progression shows their willingness to work hard to improve both their ratings and their child care business. Each level builds on the one before, with Level 4 being the highest.



**Level 4** programs have achieved national accreditation and are managed by a provider or director who volunteers mentoring to others in the field.

**Level 3** programs have made a significant investment in the professional development of the staff and they incorporate family and staff input in their programs

**Level 2** programs have consistent daily schedules, planned activities for children, and provide families with important program information

**Level 1** programs demonstrate a commitment and attention to detail to ensure the best health and safety of all children at all times.

90% of Indiana families polled say the Paths to QUALITY™ rating is an important factor in selecting child care.

[www.childcareindiana.org](http://www.childcareindiana.org)

Let Paths to QUALITY™ help you choose child care.

