



Department of Children and Families Gold Seal Quality Care Program Fact Sheet

PROGRESSIVE ENFORCEMENT EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2009

The Gold Seal Quality Care Program promotes quality child care in Florida. Child care programs seeking Gold Seal Quality Care designation must be accredited by an approved accrediting association whose standards exceed the minimum licensing requirements and promote quality child care. A complete list of the Department of Children and Families (Department) approved accrediting associations is available on our website. Child care programs that become accredited and achieve these higher standards are eligible to receive a Gold Seal Quality Care designation certificate issued by the Department.

The Gold Seal Quality Care Program is a voluntary program with benefits of participation including, but not limited to: a positive marketing tool for parents, sales tax exemption, and an increased reimbursement rate for children participating in school readiness programs. In addition, designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care Program satisfies the program eligibility requirement for participation in the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program.

Although a Gold Seal Quality Care provider must meet additional standards of the approved accrediting association, if they are licensed by the Department or local licensing agency, they are still subject to meeting the minimum health and safety standards for licensure. Compliance with each of these standards serves to ensure the health and safety of children.

Gold Seal Quality Care designees are advised that section 402.281(3), Florida Statutes, requires that the Department deny or revoke a child care provider's Gold Seal Quality Care designation if the provider has licensing standards violations as follows:

- ✓ A **Class I Violation** within a two year period
- ✓ Three or more **Class II Violations** within a two year period
- ✓ Three or more **Class III Violations** within a two year period

Effective October 1, 2009, respective to providers that accrue the violations listed above, the Department will impose a violation sanction in accordance with rule 65C-20.012 and rule 65C-22.010, Florida Administrative Code, and will revoke the provider's Gold Seal Quality Care designation during the two-year enforcement period.

The effective date of the revocation of a provider's Gold Seal Quality Care designation will be in accordance with rule 65C-20.014 and rule 65C-22.009, Florida Administrative Code.

If a Gold Seal Quality Care designation is revoked, the child care provider, with a current approved accrediting agency accreditation, may request reinstatement if they have not had any:

- **Class I Violations** for a period of **two years**, or
- **Class II or Class III Violations** for a period of **one year**.

For complete information on the Department's Gold Seal Quality Care Program visit our website at www.myflorida.com/childcare or call (888) 352-2842 .



*Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families,
and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency.*