

Organizational Criteria	Determination
<p><b>Criteria I:</b> Fiscal and Administrative Capability for Administering an Accrediting Process</p>	Meets Requirements
<p><b>Criteria II:</b> Administrative Policies and System Evaluation Procedures</p>	Meets Requirements
<p><b>Criteria III:</b> Accreditation Process</p>	Meets Requirements
<p><b>Criteria IV:</b> Institution’s Standards for Early Learning Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COA Program Accreditation Standards</li> </ul>	<p>Research basis meets ExceleRate Criteria for Silver and Gold Circles of Quality.</p> <p>COA Standards are accepted for ExceleRate Silver and Gold Circles of Quality and programs will be awarded such with verification of additional requirements described below.</p>

ExceleRate Illinois Standards	Determination & Additional Requirements	
	For Silver	For Gold
<b>1 Teaching and Learning</b>	Accepted	Accepted with additional requirements described below:
a. Learning Environment	Accepted	Accepted
b. Curriculum	Accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programs must demonstrate that their chosen curriculum aligns with the Illinois Early Learning Guidelines for Children from Birth to Age Three and the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards for Preschool Children.</li> </ul>
c. Instructional Quality	Accepted	Accepted
d. Child Screening	Accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programs must describe specific policies and procedures in place for conducting developmental screening and appropriate referral, as needed.</li> </ul>
e. Child Assessment	Accepted	Accepted

f. Inclusion of Children with Special Needs	Accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programs must submit annual data on the number of special needs children served.</li> <li>Programs must have a written MOU with local Child and Family Connections (if serving children under 3), and must have a written MOU with at least one Local Education Agency (LEA) concerning services to children with special needs.</li> </ul>
<b>2 Family and Community Engagement</b>	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Accepted</b>
a. Family and Community Engagement	Accepted	Accepted
b. Transitions	Accepted	Accepted
<b>3 Program Administration</b>	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Accepted</b>
a. Program Administration	Accepted	Accepted
b. Group Size and Staff/Child Ratios	Accepted	Accepted
c. Continuous Quality Improvement	Accepted	Accepted
d. Linguistically and Culturally Appropriate Practice	Accepted	Accepted
<b>4 Qualifications and Continuing Education</b>	<b>Accepted with additional requirements described below:</b>	<b>Accepted with additional requirements described below:</b>
a. Director Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois</li> </ul>
b. Staff Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must meet requirements of ExceleRate Illinois</li> </ul>
c. Staff Development	Accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All classroom staff in program must have individualized, written staff development plans implemented, and minimum of 20 hours of professional development per year including minimum of 5 hours Registry-approved training per year.</li> </ul>

*\*Additional training(s) will be verified.*

*\*IDCFS license will be checked for violations.*