

Guiding Principles

ExceleRate Illinois recognizes programs that operate as learning organizations. An ExceleRate quality-rated program can say:



- 1 We welcome people of every race, culture, and ability.
- 2 We learn from our families and include them in our planning.
- 3 We learn from our children and teach more effectively as we learn.
- 4 We learn from our staff by sharing ideas and working as a team.
- 5 We learn from the profession through continuing education and involvement.
- 6 We help every person build their talents and strengths.
- 7 We always put children first.

Our leaders are the “gatekeepers to quality¹.”

- They take charge of quality improvement.
- They demonstrate open and trustworthy behavior and ethical conduct.
- They model the 7 values listed above.

The ExceleRate pilot standards and resources help program leaders and staff teams apply these principles in their work.

¹The phrase “gatekeeper to quality” was coined by Dr. Paula Jorde Bloom in her work as an author and founder of the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership at National-Louis University. For more detail about leader behaviors and dispositions, see the document, *Continuous Quality Improvement: What Does a Program Leader Do?* available on the ExceleRate Illinois Providers website.



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