



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
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July 1, 2025

Dear Grow NJ Kids Community,

We are thrilled to announce that, **effective July 1, 2025**, New Jersey has revised the **Grow NJ Kids Quality Standards for Early Care and Education Programs** under the **Grow NJ Kids** initiative. These updates reflect today's best practices, are responsive to the diverse backgrounds and experiences of children and families, and center the voices and needs of the early childhood workforce. They also bring a renewed focus on leadership, professional development, and high-quality classroom learning.

This exciting milestone is the result of a two-year collaborative effort involving state, local, and national partners—including early childhood educators and leadership. Together, we shaped standards that are more progressive, more inclusive, more relevant, and more supportive of the critical work happening every day in early care and education settings across New Jersey.

We invite you to visit [www.GrowNJKids.gov](http://www.GrowNJKids.gov) to learn more about the revised standards, review some of the resources available to you, and to access further information such as timelines and important dates that may impact your program. We also encourage you to consult with your Quality Improvement Specialist (QIS) or Technical Assistance Specialist (TAS) to learn more about the transition to the newly revised standards. Please visit the website often as additional resources and information will be available as we progress through the summer.

**Please note that the current (2015) standards will be retired on January 30, 2026. Programs wishing to file for rating using the 2015 standards must apply for rating before that date.** All other programs may begin transitioning to the new standards immediately. A new self-assessment tool and Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) will be available in NJCCIS on July 14, 2025. Additional instructions will follow.

If you have questions please reach out to your QIS or TAS or feel free to contact us at [DFD.GrowNJKids@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DFD.GrowNJKids@dhs.nj.gov). Thank you for your ongoing partnership and commitment to providing the highest quality care and education to our youngest learners. We are proud of this progress and can't wait to move forward with you under these refreshed, forward-looking standards!

Warmly,

The Grow NJ Kids Team  
NJ Division of Family Development, Office of Child Care

