



Seeds to Success Fast Facts

- Seeds to Success is Washington's Quality Rating and Improvement System, currently in its field test year. It is meant to support improvement of quality in licensed child care around the state, to help ensure Washington children in care are in safe, healthy, nurturing environments.
- The Legislature in 2007 earmarked \$4.75 million for DEL to design and test a voluntary pilot QRIS.
- Five pilot communities around the state will be part of the Seeds to Success field test year: East Yakima, Spokane County, Clark County, Kitsap County and White Center.
- 125 child care providers—25 each in each of the five communities—will be selected randomly from the applicant pool to participate in field testing. It will be a mix of family home child care providers and child care centers.
- Field testing will help DEL and communities learn together what resources and support are needed to help providers improve child care quality.
- The Seeds to Success model includes four major quality categories: Curriculum & Learning Environment; Professional Development & Training; Family Relationships & Community Partnerships; and Management Practices.
- DEL has contracted with the University of Washington to evaluate the field test year.
- At least 14 states around the nation have quality rating and improvement systems in place, and several more are designing or testing systems, according to the National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center.

Some key dates for Seeds to Success:

- **April 2007:** Governor Chris Gregoire and the Legislature called for a voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for Washington to improve the quality of child care and give parents access to more information about quality early learning.
- **November 2007 to June 2008:** Pilot design phase.
- **Fall 2008 to June 2009:** Pilot field testing phase.
- **December 2008:** DEL report due to the Legislature on QRIS work.