



Who Will Support Me?

Child Care Classrooms (those funded through privately or with subsidies)

Quality Improvement Specialist (QIS) – the QIS is from the local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agency. Each County in the State of New Jersey has a CCR&R Agency. The QIS will support all child care classrooms and family child care providers enrolled in Grow NJ Kids through phase 1 of the Grow NJ Kids TA protocol.

Technical Assistance Specialist (TAS) – the TAS is from one of the four Regional Grow NJ Kids Technical Assistance Centers. The TAS will support a child care classrooms through phase 2 of the Grow NJ Kids Self-Assessment, Quality Improvement Planning, and Rating Process.

For child care classrooms and Family Child Care providers, all questions regarding your QIS/TAS should be directed to info@GrowNJKids.com.

Head Start/Early Head Start Classrooms (Head Start/Early Head Start funding)

All Head Start and Early Head Start programs should identify a team from within their agency or umbrella agency to support the site through the Grow NJ Kids process. The team composition should include staff from the following content areas: education, health, disabilities, family engagement, compliance or anyone deem important to the team.

For Head Start and Early Head Start programs, all questions regarding your Grow NJ Kids team should be directed to Suzanne.Burnette@doe.state.nj.us.

School District Classrooms

All school districts that are enrolled in Grow NJ Kids should identify a team from within the school district to support the process of Grow NJ Kids. Former Abbott School Districts may identify a Master Teacher or another lead in the school district to support classrooms through the process of Grow NJ Kids. ECPA districts, ELLI districts, Preschool Expansion districts, and other school districts should identify a team within the school district to support the schools enrolled in Grow NJ Kids. Those teams will also be supported by the NJ Department of Education Division of Early Childhood Education and Family Engagement.

For school district classrooms, all questions regarding your Grow NJ Kids team should be directed to Grace Boswell-Becica Grace.Boswell@doe.state.nj.us and Tonia Davis Tonia.Davis@doe.state.nj.us

Blended Programs

A blended program is a program that has several types of funding streams supporting the classrooms within the program. Some child care centers may have several funding streams supporting their program.

Examples:

- **Five Head Start classrooms and two classrooms that are not funded by Head Start and are located in one building-** In this example, the Head Start team that is identified will support the five Head Start classrooms and the QIS/TAS will support the two classrooms that are not funded by Head Start. However, Head Start team **MUST** communicate with the QIS/TAS to ensure ALL classrooms meet the high-quality standards. Head Start programs are responsible for all classrooms located in the building to meet the federal requirements.
- **A school districted contracted classroom in a child care center that also has three Head Start Classrooms-** In this example, the school district classroom should be supported by the school district team and the Head Start Team.
- **Early Head Start Partnership Child Care Program-**A child care program contracted with an Early Head Start. This program may have entire classrooms with all children being identified as Early Head Start children or only certain children identified as Early Head Start. In these instances, regardless of the number of children identified as Early Head Start, the entire child care classroom must meet the Early Head Start Standards regardless of funding streams. To avoid misinformation, the Early Head Start team is who provides technical assistance to the all classrooms. It is extremely important that all teams communicate to ensure coordination. **For all other non-Head Start/Early Head Start Classroom,** they will be supported as described for child care or district classrooms.

Please note for blended programs: Head Start teams, district master teachers and QIS/TAS should work together in assisting the program in completing the self-assessment and quality improvement plan for each site. The program is responsible to only submit one self-assessment and quality improvement plan for each site.

In addition, the support should work with the program on all incentive requests and rating readiness activities.

Please remember that it is a site level rating it is not by classroom.