

Quality rating system/Parent Aware:

WHERE WE STAND NOW;

A very important time is coming for FCC providers in Minnesota. **Parent Aware, a “quality rating system”** of both center workers and in home FCC providers, is currently being piloted in select counties in MN. At this time it looks like FCC providers would need certain accreditations to be eligible to receive a 4-star rating in Parent Aware. This would include an annual fee along with following guidelines given by the chosen accreditation tool.

Also to receive this rating FCC providers must also meet these prerequisites for accredited programs including;

- Submit a narrative describing your program’s philosophy
- Complete a health and safety checklist
- Agree to participate in a Parent Aware Rating Tool evaluation
- Be free of any sanctions under Minnesota Statutes section 245A.07, may not have operated on a conditional license, or had a maltreatment determination in the past two years.

While Parent Aware states that there is no cost to participate in Parent Aware the accreditations all have a fee and qualifications to be met, and materials to be purchased. The American Montessori Society also relies on donations and fund raising by members.

Do we need to be rated? Do we have the time to jump through the hoops to be rated? Will rating equate to higher fees for FCC providers? Will it benefit the large corporate child care centers more than the FCC provider? How will the rating system interact with our city/county guidelines for FCC?

We should all have a part in answering these questions and setting guidelines for our future. SEIU Kids First will be mailing out a survey to all our FCC providers regarding the rating system, please fill out the survey and mail them back ASAP. Watch for upcoming meetings in your county on the QRS sometime this summer...

Together we can improve Child Care in our Communities!