

Better Start

Quality Development Service Criteria

February 2020

Better Start Quality Development Service has been offering an on-site mentoring service to Early Years providers since February 2015. Better Start is a national service, which delivers State-aided supports based on the Síolta and Aistear Frameworks, to Early Years services in a coherent and consistent way, so that those services are of high quality and deliver positive outcomes for children.

Better Start Criteria

- (1) **Full day-care services (birth – 6 years) catering for a minimum of 40 children on a full day-care basis**
- (2) **Services catering for 20 full and/or part-time children with at least 40 children overall**
- (3) **Group or chain providers with services under the same ownership**
- (4) **Sessional services for children with at least 40 children in total**
- (5) **Service Providers that have completed the 5 Aistear and Play workshops.**

Priority Request

We also retain flexibility to respond to requests from services for support in exceptional circumstances. Priority requests could include one or a combination of the following circumstances:

- **Inspection issues relevant to quality development**
- **Access to quality support has been very limited**
- **A combination of factors such as location of service, high levels of disadvantage, rural isolation or the needs/profile of children**
- **Significant staff turnover**

There may be additional reasons that you or your local City or County Childcare Committee (CCC) would like to put forward to make a case for your service to be given special consideration for the allocation of support of an Early Years Specialist. These will be considered on a case by case basis.

If you are interested in applying for support, please contact your local CCC and they will submit a request on your behalf. If you have any questions, please contact quality@betterstart.ie or call **01 5117888**.

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