# Niagara Region Quality Development Tool

## Frequently Asked Questions

**What is the purpose of the quality development tool?**

- This tool establishes quality standards in Niagara for the early years and child care (EYCC) system
- The tool is intended to be supportive and growth-oriented, providing customized support to suit the needs of your centre
- The tool highlights areas for growth, allowing us to celebrate your successes while supporting your quality journey
- The tool is evidence-informed and encompasses core pillars of quality rooted in research
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**Will we receive an overall score on the quality development tool?**
A pillar or overall score/level will not be generated. The tool is supportive and focused on setting goals that meet the unique needs of each centre. Each condition will be assigned to a level based on observations and notes.

Within each condition there are 3 levels:

- Level 1: Needs improvement. Below quality standard
- Level 2: Meets quality standard expectations
- Level 3: Beyond Quality standard, provides strong quality programming

The level will correspond with the lowest bullet in the condition (i.e. a Centre may have two level 3s and one level 1 for a specific condition- a level 1 would be assigned)

**Who is responsible for completing the quality tool? How often will it be completed?**
Your Community Pedagogical Advisor (CPA) is responsible for administering the tool for your centre. They will administer this tool annually.

**What is the role of Educators and Supervisors in the quality tool?**
Supervisors will help the CPA and IQC in creating the quality action plan and will provide support to Educators through the implementation of goals. Educators will actively participate in completing the recommendations of the quality action plan, with support from their Supervisor, IQC and CPA

**What happens after the initial observation when the tool is completed?**

The CPA will complete the tool and begin to draft recommendations in alignment with the completed tool. They will then meet with the IQC and site supervisor to gather their input, review the completed notes, tool and draft recommendations. Together they will create recommendations that are aligned with the results of the quality development tool, while meeting the needs of the Centre and Educators. They will collaboratively complete an action plan which will act as a road map for the next year to meet recommendations.

**Can we see the quality tool in advance of our assessment?**
Yes, the tool is available on our website.

**When are the tools being completed in the year? Can we pick what month we are being assessed?**
The tools will be completed on a rolling annual basis. The CPA will schedule the assessment based on a variety of scheduling factors. You will not be able to select the month of your assessment, and you will be notified of the month by your CPA.

**Will we be having sessions for the before and after school tool or the Montessori tool?**
Yes, we will host online sessions for both the Montessori and Before and After School tool once they are ready to share.

**How long will the administration of the tool take?**
This depends on the size of the centre and the number of classrooms. Your CPA may complete more than one observation to adequately observe each room.

**Will we be able to see the results of the tool?**
Supervisors will be able to see the scored version of the tool, without CPA notes. The Supervisor will play an integral role in the goal setting process and in the creation of the action plan across all four pillars. Educators will be able to see the action plans for Pillar 2 and 3. These action plans will be available within each IRSM binder in each classroom.

**What is the role of the Executive Director in the Quality Development Tool process?**
The Executive Director is welcome to participate in the action planning meeting alongside the Centre Supervisor, IQC and CPA.

**Will we be penalized based on the results of the tool?**
No. The goal of the tool is not to be punitive. It is a supportive and growth-oriented process where the CPA and IQC will work alongside you to provide customized

support to suit the needs of your centre. The tool highlights areas for growth, allowing us to celebrate your successes while supporting your quality journey

**What is the role of the CPA vs. IQC within the quality development tool?**

| CPA | IQC |
|---|---|
| •Completes Quality Development Tool assessment over multiple visits<br>•Shares recommendations with supervisor/IQC and co-development action plan<br>•Acts as a resource to the centre (continued tier 1 support visits, support with implementation of goals, update action plan as needed) | •Meets with supervisor/CPA review Quality Development Tool results and co-develop action plan<br>•Supports implementation of action plan<br>Develop strategies to support program quality based on goals<br>•Updates action plan based on centre progress (with CPA)<br>•Models and showcases strategies to support the classroom |

**How can we share this with our teams/educators?**

We ask that you share this information with your staff at upcoming staff meetings. We have a few resources to help you share this information:

- Video Recording from your CPA detailing the quality development tool process (sent via email)
- Video Recording of the August 17th Sector Information Session
- This FAQ Document
- The Quality Development Tool

**Where can we find more information?**

On our website