online PQA

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HighScope®

Program **Q**uality **A**ssessment

PQA evaluates overall quality practices in three early childhood settings

Infant-Toddler ▪ **Preschool** ▪ **Family Child Care**

onlinepqa.net

HighScope's Program Quality Assessment tool, PQA, is a rating instrument designed to evaluate the quality of early childhood programs and identify staff training needs. The program provides specific, easily understood quality indicators with objective 5-point rating scales that define quality along a continuum. PQA is a research-based, field tested tool that meets "best practices" in early childhood care and education.

The Internet-based version of the tool, OnlinePQA, has three offerings:

Infant-ToddlerPQA ■ Preschool PQA ■ Family Child Care PQA

Selected OnlinePQA features include:

- Autoscoring for indicators, sections, and overall classroom score

- Aligns with Head Start Standards

- May be used for program accreditation, reporting, monitoring, and training

- Provides reliable, scientifically-validated assessment proven in a wide range of early childhood settings

- Option to add digital documentation

- Includes both classroom and agency level items for comprehensive evaluation

Administrators can use the built-in reports to evaluate classroom quality and plan for professional development. Teachers can use the online tool to evaluate their own classrooms. One classroom license may be used by teachers, administrators, and/or independent raters.

OnlinePQA is easy to use and once logged in, raters may create/edit a PQA, access resources, and review built-in reports to guide program planning. If you need to exit the program before completing a PQA, all the information inputted is automatically saved and you may go back in at any time.

Based on scores and information entered into OnlinePQA, the program generates several reports: **Classroom Report, Planning Report,** and **Comparative Report**. The Planning Report allows users to review categories where scores are lower and plan for improvement in those areas.

Below is a sample **Classroom Report**. Also available are detailed reports sharing all supporting evidence and scores for each indicator.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM QUALITY ASSESSMENT (PQA): SUMMARY SHEET
FORM A: CLASSROOM ITEMS (SECTIONS I-IV)

Teacher's Name: Jane Doe, Rater Two   **Program Name:** Site 1

Rater's Name: Karen Brown   **Date of Assessment:** December 31, 2013   **Type: Baseline**

I. LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
- 3   A. Safe and healthy environment
- 3   B. Defined interest areas
- 3   C. Logically located interest areas
- 4   D. Outdoor space, equipment, materials
- 3   E. Organization and labeling of materials
- 4   F. Varied and open-ended materials
- 4   G. Plentiful materials
- 5   H. Diversity-related materials
- 4   I. Displays of child-initiated work

II. DAILY ROUTINE
- 5   A. Consistent daily routine
- 5   B. Parts of the day
- 5   C. Appropriate time for each part of day
- 5   D. Time for child planning
- 5   E. Time for child-initiated activities
- 5   F. Time for child recall
- 5   G. Small-group time
- 5   H. Large-group time
- 4   I. Choices during transition times
- 5   J. Cleanup time with reasonable choices
- 5   K. Snack or meal time
- 5   L. Outside time

III. ADULT-CHILD INTERACTION
- 4   A. Meeting basic physical needs
- 3   B. Handling separation from home
- 4   C. Warm and caring atmosphere
- 2   D. Support for child communication
- 5   E. Support for non-English speakers
- 3   F. Adults as partners in play
- 4   G. Encouragement of child initiatives
- 5   H. Support for child learning at group
- 3   I. Opportunities for child exploration
- 4   J. Acknowledgment of child efforts
- 5   K. Encouragement for peer interactions
- 4   L. Independent problem solving
- 3   M. Conflict resolution

IV. CURRICULUM PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT
- 4   A. Curriculum model
- 3   B. Team teaching
- 5   C. Comprehensive child records
- 4   D. Anecdotal note taking by staff
- 3   E. Use of child observation measure

0 NUMBER OF CLASSROOM ITEMS NOT RATED (Number of items marked 'NR')

39 NUMBER OF CLASSROOM ITEMS RATED (39 minus the number not rated)

160 TOTAL CLASSROOM SCORE (Sum of scores on rated items)

4.10 AVERAGE CLASSROOM SCORE (Total score / Number of items rated)

AVERAGE SECTION SCORES
I.	3.67
II.	4.92
III.	3.77
IV.	3.80

HIGHSCOPE.   Page 1 of 1

Classroom items will reflect the type of PQA selected — Infant-Toddler, Preschool, or Family Child Care. The Program Quality Assessment (PQA) is a rating system with scores ranging from 1–5 (1=lowest, 5=highest).

Baseline and End-of-Year PQA summaries are outlined in the following
sample Comparative Report.

PQA Comparative Report

The PQA Comparative report compares the section scores between two selected PQA assessments and computes the change in score, if any.

Classroom Name: Classroom 1

Time	Form	Date of Assessment	Assessment Period	Rater
1	A	12/31/2013	Baseline	Karen Brown
2	A	04/20/2014	End-of-year	Karen Brown

	Time 1	Time 2	Change
I. Learning Environment	3.67	4.44	0.78
II. Daily Routine	4.25	4.58	0.33
III. Adult-Child Interaction	3.77	4.62	0.85
IV. Curriculum Planning and Assessment	3.80	4.80	1.00

Classroom licenses are available through an annual subscription and provide
options to conduct multiple assessments during the program year. Built-in
reports provide overall classroom scores as well as comparison and planning
reports.

For more information, contact us at 800.587.5639 Ext. 234 or 294

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