



BRIEF EARLY CHILDHOOD QUALITY INVENTORY (BEQI)

What is BEQI?

Brief Early Childhood Quality Inventory, or BEQI, is an adaptable tool that helps measure the quality of early childhood settings for children birth to age five.

Highlights of the tool include:

- BEQI is a strengths-based tool that can be used virtually or in-person. It focuses first on what an educator is doing well, then offers feedback for addressing areas of improvement.
- BEQI includes both observation and self-assessment components. A trained observer can use the 50-item observation checklist addressing program activities and materials, educator-child interactions, and health and safety. The BEQI self-assessment is a brief set of questions that allows educators to reflect on their program and self-identified strengths as well as areas of need.
- BEQI has flexible uses and can be used for program evaluation without a coaching component, or it can be combined as a measurement tool with a coaching system.
- The tool is streamlined and easy-to-use. The observation tool is scored using a yes/no scale with items observed in many child care settings, like positive peer interactions, engaged educators, and the child's ability to choose among different activities.

Brief Overview of BEQI Themes:



Play-based learning

How does educator engage with children in play-based learning activities and materials?



Learning through conversations

How does educator facilitate children's learning through extending conversation and dialogue?



Promoting strong relationships

How does educator interact with children to foster social and emotional development?



Safe and stimulating environments

How is the learning space arranged and what are the health and safety features of the environment?



Caring for infants and toddlers

How does the educator accommodate children 0-3 in the program?



Engaging families

How does the program form relationships with parents and families?



Educator perceptions

How does educator feel about his/her work, sources of stress and joy, support?

Why Should You Use BEQI?

- Entering the state quality improvement system is daunting for many educators, including discomfort with the idea of being observed or evaluated on quality practices. This tool is specifically designed to be flexible and approachable for all educators: from someone who is not yet a part of the state quality improvement system to an educator firmly established in that system.
- BEQI is easy to use and requires less training than traditional quality measurement tools.
- BEQI focuses on the priorities of the users and can be adapted to fit the context of the setting by adding or removing some questions. It can be used in family childcare homes, community-based early childhood education, and more formal preschool settings.
- An app for the tool is currently in development, which will make it easy for users to enter data, share videos and pictures, and receive feedback. The app will also aggregate data and allow community organizations to view educators' information easily.

How is BEQI Different than Other Measurement Tools?

- This tool is adaptable and can be modified to fit the needs of the organization or community. It is applicable both in the US and in non-US settings, and across different setting types.
- BEQI is a fast, objective, and easy-to-use system.
- Other tools have been focused primarily on research rather than for use as a monitoring tool. BEQI is designed to be used for monitoring over time.

Recommendations

"The BEQI is a great tool for starting a conversation with child care providers about quality that values their input, allows you to meet them where they are, and hones in on the most essential elements. Unlike many other measures of quality, the BEQI is a streamlined tool that sets the stage for meaningful collaboration with child care providers to facilitate quality improvements."

- Shannon Cotsoradis, Chief Executive Officer,
Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative

"As a coach and mentor, I love this tool that allows the director, teacher, or provider to review their curriculum, how they relate to each child, to the group, and how their learning environment is set up. BEQI helps me dig into all the important areas in an organized, thought-provoking way with them and makes it much easier to set goals along the way to having a quality program."

- Claudia Zapata, Child Care Coach

We are interested in finding partners to help us test and further develop the BEQI toolkit.

Please be in touch with our team at info@ecdmeasure.org.