



QUALITY ASSESSMENT SERVICES

CLAYTON EARLY LEARNING

January 2021

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1

We evaluate and offer feedback for early childhood programs across Colorado to provide high-quality opportunities for children and families.



View From the Road: Garden of the Gods, Colorado Springs. Photo by Jenai Volesky, Assessment Associate

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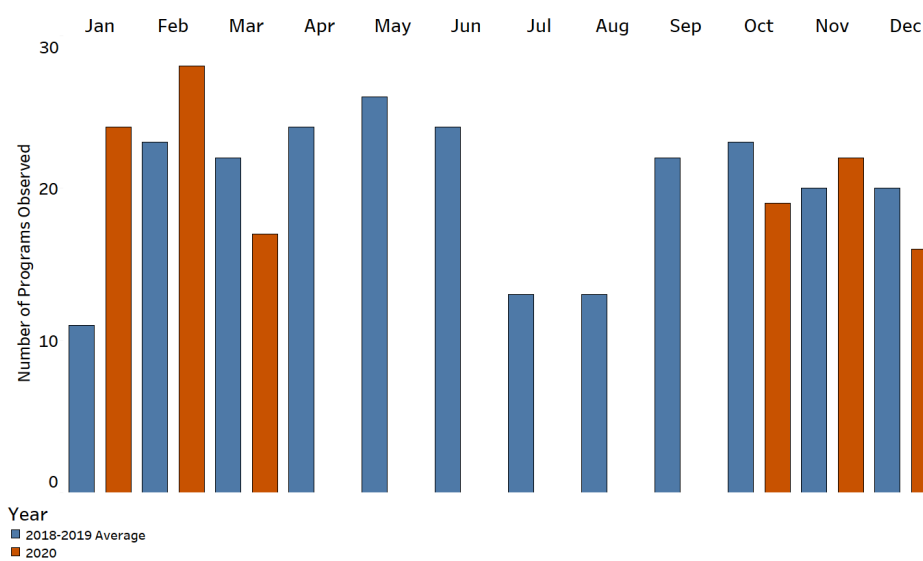
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Announcements & Resources

Happy New Year! We are so excited to launch the first volume of our newsletter! We will release an electronic volume at the start of every quarter via email. Quality Assessment Services (QAS) is one of many departments at Clayton Early Learning. To learn more about our organization, visit the [Clayton Early Learning](#) website. Our department's main focus is on observation-based assessments to support high-quality early learning environments. Explore [QAS's](#) webpage to learn more about us!

To continue to provide services to the community, we transitioned many of our services to virtual delivery. Some of these services include the interim virtual Colorado Shines Rating, the third editions of the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scales (ERS) coach certification, and training focused on high-quality environments and best practices. In partnership with the Colorado Office of Early Childhood, Department of Human Services, and with support from their Preschool Development Grant, we are excited to announce free training on the ERS scales starting in January and continuing through the summer. Visit our [Re-tooling](#) webpage to learn more.

Colorado Shines Sites Rating by Month
2018-2019 Combined Average Versus 2020



Dive Into Data

By QAS Data Team

Coming into 2020, our department's capacity for Colorado Shines Ratings was full. We had an unprecedented number of programs scheduled to rate. This number came from a combination of first-time programs and programs that were re-rating (on the three-year rating schedule).

The graph shows the number of programs rated in 2020 (orange bars) compared with the average number of programs observed each month over the past two years (2018 and 2019 averaged together in blue).

Although we suspended in-person observations on March 13th, 2020, when Clayton closed due to COVID-19, we were able to produce overall quality ratings for 17 programs. Historically, spring is our busiest time for Colorado Shines Ratings. Unfortunately, many programs were affected by the suspension of in-person ratings.

The rest of the spring and summer was spent developing the interim virtual rating process (months with no orange bars). We piloted for two months in fall 2020. The number of programs rated during the pilot months approached the monthly number of programs rated in the same month of previous years. In November 2020, we exceeded the average number of programs rated in November 2018 and November 2019.

As of January 2021, we are back to our regular monthly rating capacity and we anticipate meeting what our projected monthly rating numbers were in 2020.

Staff Feature



Cora Doolittle, Assessment Associate

College: Philippine Christian University, Manila

Favorite children's book: *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle

Favorite movie: The Sound of Music

Talent you would most like to have: Ballet dancing

Word or phrase you overuse: "That thing!"

Favorite local restaurant: New Saigon in Denver

Thing you can't live without: My Bible

Your teammates know you for: Being short but spunky!

Bucket list item you have already accomplished:

Going to Africa

Favorite observation tool: ECERS-3

Your motto: "The most beautiful way to start and end a day is with a grateful heart."

Featured Service

S.A.F.E. Playground Training

Participants learn about the S.A.F.E. model (Supervision, Age Appropriate Design, Fall Surfacing, and Equipment Maintenance). This instructor-led virtual training also uncovers the 10 myths of playgrounds and includes helpful training strategies participants can use in programs, for both administrators and teachers. Please email us at: ERSscheduling@claytonearlylearning.org for more information regarding this valuable training.

IRR Introduction

By QAS IRR Team

Many of you are familiar with our team and the work we do to help support coaches, directors, ECE professionals, providers, and assessors throughout the state. However, there may be a few who are asking, "What in the name of blazes does IRR stand for? Irregular? Interplanetary Rocket Riders?" Although the second one might have merit, the answer is Inter-Rater Reliability.

Our team of five is responsible for maintaining State Anchor status for all of the Environment Rating Scales, ensuring reliability for the QAS Assessors, and certifying ECE coaches across the state. We are your go-to hub for questions regarding the scale criteria and clarifications from the authors. We also host the statewide early childhood Coaches Meetings twice a year for networking, sharing opportunities and ideas, and providing updates and training. Along with the training for the Coaches Meetings, we train on a variety of topics that we and can also deliver virtually! Full-day ERS training sessions! Half-day ERS training sessions! S.A.F.E. Playground! Cultural Awareness!

We could pour out more topics out now, but a better way to get a taste of what we are offering is to visit the [training calendar](#). Please email us at: ERSscheduling@claytonearlylearning.org with any questions, requests, or information. We love to hear from you!



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