

Review of Recognition Programs for Healthy Eating and Physical Activity in ECE

This document summarizes available information regarding state recognition or designation programs for obesity prevention in early care and education (ECE) settings. It also highlights common characteristics across these recognition programs related to eligibility, recognition time frame and application requirements.

Overview

The CDC's 2016 *Early Care and Education State Indicator Report*¹ highlights state level data and information about policy and system supports for obesity prevention in ECE settings. The report applies CDC's *Spectrum of Opportunities* and a set of indicators to determine to what extent states are incorporating obesity prevention into broader state systems. Among the "Emerging Opportunities and Process Indicators" is an indicator for states with a recognition or designation process for ECE providers, such as *Healthy Child Care Center* or *Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care*. As noted by the report, these programs are typically voluntary and require ECE providers to meet predetermined criteria on a particular topic(s) to receive recognition or designation². The CDC report indicated there are 24 states with a recognition program for ECE providers.

Nemours took a closer look at programs in these 24 states as part of our work supporting the Florida Department of Health (FLDOH) and a planning committee of stakeholders tasked with developing a provider recognition program specifically for Florida. Based on reviews of program website and materials, application documents, and communications with state agency staff, we found the following:

- 10 states have voluntary, statewide recognition programs that challenge and encourage ECE programs to meet or exceed certain standards related to healthy eating and physical activity for young children. These programs usually have unique branding, are managed by a state agency or non-profit organization, and issue recognition or designation for a certain period of time, i.e. one to three years.
- 8 of the 24 states reported having a recognition program that used the LMCC quiz and/or NAP SACC self assessment tools. However, these tools are used by programs to develop an action or improvement plan, as part of QRIS or rating process, and to help providers identify a focus as part of quality improvement. While some states may use the results of these self-assessments to recognize providers through the LMCC map or an existing QRIS program, the tools were not usually associated with a standalone recognition program/designation.
- 4 states appeared to have a recognition program at some point or a program linked to a particular intervention for ECE providers. However, upon closer examination the program appeared to be inactive.
- 2 states reported having a recognition program but we found no evidence of a statewide, all-encompassing program active. These states (Kansas and Texas) did appear to have active Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care recognition programs.

Characteristics of recognition / designation programs

Based on the above, our review focused on the 10 states that had an active, statewide, branded recognition program – Arizona, California, Georgia, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina,

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *Early Care and Education State Indicator Report 2016*. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/downloads/early-care-education-report.pdf>

² Ibid.

Tennessee, and Utah. Programs in these states issue recognition based on multiple best practices and/or standards in healthy eating and physical activity.

These programs include the following characteristics:

Application & Criteria for Recognition:

- All 10 recognition programs are completely voluntary and include a standardized application process. Applications are downloaded electronically and submitted via e-mail or regular mail to a state agency contact, primarily a Department of Health (9 states) and in one instance, a Department of Education.
- Applicants must be licensed or license-exempt ECE programs. Some programs are only open to licensed ECE centers. Most programs seemed to focus on centers participating in CACFP.
- Family child care homes do not seem to be the main focus for recognition programs.
- The applications varied in depth and intensity with some states requiring completion of a checklist based on standards/recommendations while other states had 10+ page questionnaires.
- All states require the submission of some supporting documentation in addition to the application as evidence of the program implementing wellness policies, healthy menus, or completing staff training on nutrition, physical activity, and/or breastfeeding support. In addition to these documents, some states require programs to complete self-assessments and/or participate in an in-person training on a specific topic such as child nutrition, physical activity or breastfeeding support.
- Four states (Missouri, Utah, South Carolina, Georgia) have an in-person visit (via TA specialist or QRIS visit) and/or verification visit as part of the application process.
- The Missouri program required the submission of photos of play equipment and the completion of an equipment checklist.

Recognition Time Period:

- All states recognized providers for at least one year. A few states allowed ECE programs to keep their recognition status for three years.
- Most recognition programs required ECE programs to submit updated documentation as part of the renewal process. Most states also reported the renewal process tends to be less stringent. However, other recognition programs require ECE programs to achieve the same expectations specified during the original enrollment.

Recognition Formats:

- All states provided different levels of recognition, usually three, e.g. bronze, silver, gold. This method allows for ECE programs to achieve some level of recognition and make progress toward higher levels. For instance, the minimal level of recognition may align with CACFP standards. However, none of the states had any information on programs that moved from one level to the next, e.g. silver to gold.
- All states branded their recognition/designation program so the recognition could be easily marketed and identifiable. Program names include Missouri's *Eat Smart, MOve Smart*; California's *Shaping Healthy Impressions through Nutrition and Exercise (SHINE)*, Ohio's *Healthy Program*; and Tennessee's *Golden Sneaker*.
- Nearly all recognition programs showcased recognized facilities on their websites with names and addresses. Those states that don't have the list currently available online do make it available upon request. However, none of these websites seem to be targeting or attracting families that would be looking for general information on child care centers.

- Many ECE programs also received certificates or stickers which can be placed on the entrance of the facility to let families know the program had been recognized for healthy eating, active play and/or breastfeeding support.
- Some states recognized providers at statewide conference or annual training events.
- A few states provided sample press releases, parent letters, and menu templates with the recognition program logo. These seem to be helpful in promoting the recognition to families and providing tools and resources to centers.

Other characteristics:

- Regardless of the complexity of the application, all states have a general uptake, i.e. percentage of total ECE centers recognized, of ~ 4-5%. Only Utah had an uptake of 17% but this was due to the overall low number of ECE centers in the state (approximately 300). The other outlier was South Carolina which has fully incorporated health and nutrition standards into their QRIS, in which 60% of licensed programs choose to be rated.
- Some states offer Technical Assistance to help ECE programs complete the application requirements and/or develop an action plan to improve their recognition level. One state offers the opportunity for “additional resources” depending on funding but it was not clear what these resources include.
- All recognition programs indicate the need for a dedicated managing entity to promote the program, receive and review applications, communicate with applicants, issue recognition materials, and, oversee renewal process, if applicable.
- Only two state’s programs (Georgia and South Carolina) seemed directly linked to the state’s QRIS.

Review of healthy eating and physical activity recognition programs in ECE programs in 10 states

1. Arizona

Program Name:	Empower
Description:	Part of the SNAP-Ed Strategies & Interventions Toolkit.* Arizona Department of Health Services developed the Empower Program in 2010 as a voluntary program to support licensed ECE facilities' efforts to empower young children to grow up healthy
Criteria for Recognition:	All licensed Arizona's child care centers and child care small group homes who enroll in the Empower program must meet the "10 Empower Standards". If providers meet all 10, they get a reduction on licensing fee. Must be licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Bureau of Child Care Licensing (BCCL). ECE providers could voluntarily agree to implement the Empower Standards in exchange for discounted licensing fees of 50%
Recognition Time Period	revisited every 3 years when licensing fees are renewed
# programs recognized	Yes, data is collected by Department of Health Services.
Website:	http://azdhs.gov/prevention/nutrition-physical-activity/empower/index.php

2. California (2)

Program Name:	Shaping Healthy Impressions through Nutrition and Exercise (SHINE)
Description:	<p>SHINE is a voluntary nutrition and physical activity recognition program for licensed child care centers and family child care homes in California. The program is designated for child care sites that participate in a federal child nutrition program, such as the Child and Adult Care Food Program or the National School Lunch Program and serve preschool aged children (ages 2-5). Funded by the California Department of Education - Nutrition Services Division (CDE-NSD)</p> <p>Bronze Certified = Four Required Elements + Two Elective Elements of their choice Silver Certified = Four Required Elements + Four Elective Elements of their choice Gold Certified = All Ten Elements</p>
Criteria for Recognition:	<p>The Preschools SHINE program consists of 10 elements that foster healthy habits during the early years of growth and development.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participation in a Federal Child Nutrition Program* (Required) 2. Meal Quality (Elective) 3. Mealtime Environment (Elective) 4. Nutrition Education (Required) 5. Edible Gardening (Elective) 6. Physical Activity (Elective) 7. Professional Development (Required)

	8. Wellness Policies (Elective) 9. Partnerships (Elective) 10. Leadership Team (Required)
Recognition Time Period:	The site is recognized as a Preschools SHINE site for four years. To reapply, they need to complete 15 additional continuing education unit (CEU) related to nutrition, physical activity, and/or wellness education in the past four years and submit another application.
# programs recognized:	45 programs; Yes, available list of “ <u>Certified Sites</u> ” on the website below.
Website:	http://www.healthypreschoolers.com/?page_id=5345

Program Name:	Healthy Apple in San Francisco
Description:	The Healthy Apple Program is available for FREE to all child care providers in San Francisco. Healthy Apple supports child care providers in implementing research-based best practices in nutrition and physical activity for children from birth to age 5. The program includes (1) a self-assessment of current practices, (2) goal-setting assistance to improve those practices and (3) resources, workshops and coaching to help meet these goals.
Criteria for Recognition:	<p>Once per year, all Healthy Apple Program participants are considered for Bronze, Silver, and Gold Healthy Apple Awards in the areas of Nutrition and/or Physical Activity. Winners are recognized at a public awards ceremony (see diagram below). The first time one participates in the program, one must complete two self-assessments to provide baseline and improvement data. Most child care providers can complete the following steps within six to eight months:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Self-Assessment: Providers can choose to take either or both the Nutrition or Physical Activity Assessments at any time. The online versions are currently available in English. Participants are reminded to re-take the self-assessment by September 30 to qualify for the awards, which are given each Fall. 2) Setting Goals/Action Plan: A Feedback Report, highlighting areas for potential improvement, is immediately available after completing the self-assessment online. Providers choose a few key items to work on and use the online Action Plan to think through what is needed to complete their goals. 3) Utilize Targeted Resources: Online resources specific to goals selected are provided, including tip sheets, curriculum, parent handouts, posters, monthly newsletters, and videos. 4) Attend Workshops: Healthy Apple offers many free workshops on nutrition, physical activity, and policy development annually. Topics are based on recent self-assessment results from all participants to address areas of greatest needs. Workshops are held on weeknights and weekends. 5) Technical Assistance Support: At any time, providers can call, email, or schedule an appointment with Healthy Apple staff to learn more about the program or self-assessment tool, receive technical help, or discuss ways to achieve goals.

Recognition Time Period:	Child care providers are encouraged to participate in the Healthy Apple Program annually to continue implementing best practices and improve their award level.
# programs recognized:	47 programs; Award Winners are listed on the Healthy Apple website
Website:	http://www.childrencouncil.org/for-child-care-providers/health-nutrition/healthy-apple/

3. Georgia

Program Name:	Growing Fit Kit: Wellness policies in Georgia’s Early Care Early Care Environment linked to state’s QRIS
Description:	This tool kit is intended to guide providers in the development or improvements to policies around nutrition and physical activity. This tool kit can also help you move toward achievement of Quality Rated standards by helping you meet what the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) refers to as Quality Rated Portfolio Standard 2.1.
Criteria for Recognition:	<p>Department of Early Care and Learning’s (DECAL) Quality Rated Recognition Quality Rated is Georgia’s system to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early education and school-age care programs. Similar to rating systems for hotels or restaurants, Quality Rated assigns a rating (e.g., one star, two star, or three star) to early education and school-age care programs that go above and beyond minimum licensing standards. By participating in Quality Rated, child care programs demonstrate their commitment to continuous quality improvement. Hundreds of providers have accepted the challenge to embark on a path of continuous quality improvement. Improved physical activity and nutrition are a part of achieving Quality Rated.</p> <p>There are three steps to Quality Rated recognition—</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Application: Create an account and complete a brief application with demographic information about your program to get started on the path to becoming Quality Rated. 2) Portfolio: Earn points by submitting evidence of the credentials and training of the teaching staff; your program’s commitment to child health and physical activity; the ways you support family engagement; practices around instruction and curriculum; and your classroom ratios and group size. The information in this tool kit can help you achieve some of the requirements for Portfolio Standard #2. 3) Assessment: Earn points based on your support of the development of children’s reasoning skills, social-emotional development, language, and school readiness.
Recognition Time Period:	Annual verification
# programs recognized:	?
Website:	https://dph.georgia.gov/early-care-providers https://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/growing_fit_kit_v4.pdf

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/QualityInitiatives/QualityRated.aspx>

4. Missouri

Program Name:	Eat Smart, MOveSmart, Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care
Description:	<p>A suite of recognition programs overseen by the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). The recognition programs focus on child care centers and family child care homes participating in CACFP (for Eat Smart). The criteria for each programs varies slightly.</p> <p>For successful applicants under all these programs receive a certificate, window cling and recognition on the DHSS website.</p>
Criteria for Recognition:	<p>The Eat Smart guidelines are divided into three levels: minimum, intermediate, and advanced. The minimum level is the same as CACFP meal pattern requirements and Missouri State Licensing requirements. <i>MOve Smart</i> requires programs to submit their policies, weekly schedules, equipment checklist, photos, and list of physical activity trainings completed by staff. To receive the Breastfeeding Friendly certification, child care programs complete an application and provide supporting documentation, including facility policies and photos. Programs aim to meet five criteria including having a written policy supporting breastfeeding families, provide a welcoming environment for breastfeeding mothers, offer resources to parents, feed infants on demand and communicate with moms about feeding preferences; and, train staff to support parents. Similar to Eat Smart / MOve Smart recognition, successful programs receive a certificate, window cling and recognition on the DHSS website. However, unlike Eat Smart there is no in-person visit to verify the application.</p>
Recognition Time Period:	Annual with opportunity for renewal
# programs recognized:	315 programs
Website:	<p>http://health.mo.gov/living/wellness/nutrition/movesmartguidelines/ http://health.mo.gov/living/wellness/nutrition/eatsmartguidelines/ http://health.mo.gov/living/wellness/nutrition/breastfeedingfriendlychildcare/</p>

5. New Mexico

Program Name:	Healthy Kids, Healthy Child Care (HKHC)
Description:	<p>The Healthy Kids, Healthy Childcare program is a partnership between the NM Department of Health and Healthy Kids New Mexico to create healthy environments and programs to give kids what they need to play well, eat well, learn well, and live healthy and full lives. Simply put, healthy eating and physical activity are two lifestyle choices that prevent obesity and subsequent chronic disease.</p> <p>The program promotes the 5-2-1-0 Challenge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5: Eat 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables daily ▪ 2: Trim screen time to 2 hours or less a day ▪ 1: Move More—be active at least 1 hour every day

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 0: Drinks lots of H2O (water) <p>Healthy Kids Healthy Childcare aims to train childcare providers from licensed childcare centers and home-based daycares about the initiative and encourages a self-assessment and action plan for each childcare facility.</p> <p>Gold Certificate Award: Fulfill Silver requirements plus participation in at least two trainings and submission of portfolio on how Challenge was implemented (may include photos, monthly calendar, lesson plans, success stories, etc.).</p> <p>Silver Certificate Award: Successfully complete and submit Physical Activity & Screen Time Tracker and description of parent engagement component.</p> <p>Recognition award at CACFP Childcare Center Annual Training or at the Outreach Workers Conference in October as the Statewide HKHC Champion of the Year! Feature Article in CYFD Visionary Statewide Newsletter.</p>
Criteria for Recognition:	<p>Initiative included 6 steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commit to increasing physical activity to 120 minutes a day and screen time to 30 minutes or less per week. 2. Attend training and receive technical assistance on how to implement the Healthy Kids Healthy Childcare Challenge. 3. Implement the Challenge for 4 consecutive weeks during childcare hours. 4. Complete the Physical Activity & Screen Time Tracker every day of the Challenge. 5. Implement a parent education component that supports increased physical activity and decreased screen time at home. 6. Submit completed Physical Activity & Screen Time Tracker and required materials
Recognition Time Period	<p>Seems to have operated as a time limited initiative in 2014-2015 and it currently being updated per DOH website. The HKHC challenge operated as a 4 week initiative to increase physical activity and decrease/eliminate screen time in child care programs across the state. Challenge for registered and licensed home childcare providers and licensed center child care teachers with pre-school age children.</p>
# programs recognized:	<p>Based on available information, recognition appeared to be one time.</p>
Website:	<p>http://archive.healthykidsnm.org/documents/HKHC_Commitment_Form.pdf http://archive.healthykidsnm.org/childcare.shtml</p>

6. North Carolina

Program Name:	Be Active Kids
Description:	This is an interactive health program for children ages birth to five is available to adults working in child care centers, child care homes, and schools across North Carolina. Eligible Providers must interact regularly with children birth to five and

	<p>may include teachers, directors, floaters, nutritional service staff, and recreation coordinators. Providers typically are associated with family child care homes, private child care centers, faith based child care facilities, Head Start staff, pre-k or Kindergarten classroom teachers, before and after school staff, YMCA/YWCA staff and parks and recreation staff. This program utilizes a developmentally appropriate curriculum kit and various training modules to increase physical activity of both children and adults in early childhood settings. In addition to the curricula, Be Active Kids offers several training modules, based on our 10 components, to assist in the continuing education of early childhood professionals. Training modules vary in length from one to five hours and are intended to be connected together to develop a deeper level of competence while assisting educators in gaining CEUs towards certification</p>
Criteria for Recognition:	<p>Childcare providers can become a part of the Be Active Kids network by attending a 3 hour Be Active Kids trainer provided by one of our many statewide volunteer trainers. Be Active Kids trainers attend a 5 hour training provided by Be Active Kids staff. The recognition for the child care program includes program material (the kit), a training certificate and 3 Contact Hour Credits (CHCs approved by NCAeyc and DCDEE), and school promotional/marketing materials. The certification for the trainers includes the program materials (the kit), a play package, a training certificate and 4.5 CHCs, and trainers guide. Be Active Kids also uses a center wide recognition program (only a few centers are being piloted directly with Be Active Kids but have integrated this into a larger initiative in the state called Shape NC) in which centers must address specific health-related components in order to be a Be Active Center/School of Excellence (Model Early Learning Center/Demonstration Site)</p>
Recognition Time Period	<p>Childcare providers are Be Active Kids “recognized” as long as they continue to use the program. Trainers remain “certified” as long as they conduct either two provider trainings a year <i>or</i> one provider training and community outreach activity. If not, they become inactive and must retake the train-the-trainer in order to be active and able to access provider trainings and free Be Active Kids resources. The centers/schools must continue to provide action plans showing ongoing progress around the health-related components.</p>
# programs recognized:	<p>Not available.</p>
Website:	<p>http://www.beactivekids.org/beactive-at-school-childcare</p>

7. Ohio

Program Name:	<p>Ohio Healthy Program</p>
Description:	<p>Ohio Healthy Programs is funded by the Ohio Department of Health and in part by a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The project offers early care and education programs the opportunity to earn recognition as an Ohio Healthy Program.</p>
Criteria for Recognition:	<p>Steps toward this designation include: 1) attending Ohio Approved professional development which uses the Healthy Children, Healthy Curriculum, 2) implement at least one wellness policy, demonstrate improvement in children’s menu and achieve at least one healthy family engagement activity. OCCRRA recognizes programs that</p>

	<p>meet the OHP requirements. Each program receives an award letter and certificate. As funding allows, programs may receive additional recognition items.</p> <p>To maintain OHP status, simply ensure that all four steps are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ensure staff is trained in the curriculum -Submit current menu that demonstrates adherence to OHP standards -Submit at least one new healthy policy -Submit at least one new healthy family engagement activity
Recognition Time Period	Programs remain designated as OHP for one calendar year.
# programs recognized:	159 programs; available list of designated programs on website " Designated Ohio Healthy Programs "
Website:	https://www.occrpa.org/ohio-healthy-programs

8. South Carolina

Program Name:	Grow Healthy and ABC Quality
Description:	<p>The ABC Center Standards at all levels now include nutrition and physical activities standards. ABC Quality has partnered with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC) for several years to develop these standards as ABC's response to the growing state and national concern about childhood obesity. Grow Healthy sets forth policies and activities that promote children's health and well-being through good nutrition and healthy exercise.</p> <p>The Level A, B, and C Standards include the new Grow Healthy standards for each level. The Grow Healthy standards are highlighted in yellow in the Level B Standards.</p>
Criteria for Recognition:	Multiple requirements to meet per Level, i.e. A, B, C.
Recognition Time Period:	Annual, with unannounced reviews.
# programs recognized:	Approximately 60% of all regulated providers choose to be rated in ABC Quality. There about 1,500 licensed programs in the state.
Website:	http://www.scchildcare.org/providers/become-an-abc-provider.aspx

9. Tennessee

Program Name:	Gold Sneaker Initiative
Description:	<p>The Gold Sneaker Initiative was developed to enhance policy related to health and wellness within licensed child care facilities across Tennessee. Recognition as a Gold Sneaker facility will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A certificate of achievement signed by the Governor. • Two Gold Sneaker stickers which can be placed on entrance(s) to the facility or used in promotional activities for the facility.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to an electronic Gold Sneaker logo to be used in materials produced by the facility • Recognition on the following Web sites: Department of Health and the Gold Sneaker Web sites.
Criteria for Recognition:	<p>Programs desiring “Gold Sneaker” designation must provide to the Department of Health the following documentation annually:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A copy of the program’s policies clearly stating Gold Sneaker policies 1.1-1.9. (see website of Gold Sneaker Policies) 2) A copy of the feeding plan form in use by the program demonstrating compliance with Gold Sneaker policy 1.5. 3) Documentation that the director (if center-based program) and teaching staff have completed Gold Sneaker training. If the program is a family or group child care program, the provider must provide documentation of completion of training.
Recognition Time Period:	Programs remain recognized for one calendar year.
# programs recognized:	475 programs; Yes, available list of recognized facilities on website “ Gold Sneaker Facilities ”
Website:	https://tn.gov/health/topic/goldsneaker

10. Utah

Program Name:	Targeting Obesity in Preschools and Child Care Settings - TOP Star
Description:	<p>TOP Star – Targeting Obesity in Preschools and Child Care Settings – is a program developed by the Utah Department of Health, local health departments, and other partners to help prevent obesity among children in childcare. The goal of TOP Star is to help childcare providers improve their nutrition and physical activity environments. The TOP Star Program consists of two components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A training course, which is available through local health departments and Care about Childcare agencies. 2) A consultation and technical assistance program, which is available through local health departments.
Criteria for Recognition:	Childcare providers electing to complete the full TOP Star program receive in-depth technical assistance with a trained local health department consultant. Upon completion of a process that includes self-assessment, goal setting, and the implementation of an action plan, childcare providers who demonstrate improvement in physical activity and nutrition environments are eligible to receive a TOP Star endorsement.
Recognition Time Period:	The endorsement is valid for three years. After three years, endorsed childcare providers are encouraged to reapply for endorsement, which involves completing a new self-assessment
# programs recognized:	67 programs; available list of Endorsed Facilities on website.
Website:	http://choosehealth.utah.gov/prek-12/childcare/top-star-program.php

Florida County Level Programs

Program Name:	<u>Healthy Sarasota</u>
Description:	Healthy Sarasota County - Child Care helps child care facilities improve the health and wellness of children in their care. Using the 5210 message, the program provides consistent guidance to address the policies, practices, and environments that influence healthy lifestyle behaviors. Centers are awarded a designation of Platinum, Silver, or Bronze based on five benchmark menus.
Criteria for Recognition:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Submit the Healthy Sarasota County Child Care Application & Affidavit 2) Attend a two-day Healthy Sarasota County Child Care Training 3) Create an Action Plan through the Let's Move Child Care website 4) Evaluate site and set goals
Recognition Time Period:	?
# programs recognized:	47 programs
Website:	http://www.healthysarasota.com/

Program Name:	Healthy Okaloosa 5210
Description:	This sector of the Healthy Okaloosa 5210 initiative launched in July 2014 and is designed to reach children in early childhood education. This includes childcare facilities and childcare homes. Healthy Okaloosa Child Care uses a variety of evidence-based practices to help early childhood education providers improve the health of their students, families and staff. Providers are encouraged to implement sustainable policy and environmental strategies that support healthy behaviors in the in the childcare setting. The DOH-Okaloosa Healthy Okaloosa Child Care team provides training, resources and technical assistance to all of our partners.
Criteria for Recognition:	<p>All providers interested in obtaining recognition in the Healthy Okaloosa program must complete the following steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Create an action plan 2) Create a policy pertaining to the 5210 message or environmental policy that is sustainable 3) All programs must perform at least one center activity and one parent engagement activity. <p>The Healthy Okaloosa program also holds an award ceremony at the end of the year for all programs who participated in the program.</p>
Recognition Time Period:	All programs must renew their recognition every 2 years. However, the renewal process is different. For recertification, all programs must complete 2 out of 3 online trainings and develop a new policy or environmental policy.
# programs recognized:	List of programs is available upon request

Website:	http://okaloosa.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/wellness-programs/healthy-okaloosa-5210/index.html
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