Raising the Bar Quality Standards

Programs work toward increasing standards in each of the three categories of Raising the Bar to improve quality for children, parents, staff and our community.

**Quality Assurance Bar** looks at how quality service is monitored (e.g. Client satisfaction surveys) and reviews plans and actions developed in response to the needs and opportunities identified.

**Best Practice in Management Bar** looks at communication, written policies and procedures, leadership and supervision strategies which provide a framework for the healthy child care environment.

**Professional Development Bar** looks at staff’s commitment to professional development.

The standards are defined by levels, which allow programs to continually improve quality. The levels are raised by the Advisory Committee and community based on community capacity.

**Bronze level** programs follow fundamental quality indicators in the Raising the Bar criteria and are also in full compliance with Ontario’s Day Nursery Act.

**Silver level** programs meet all of the bronze level criteria and have put additional strategies in place to enhance the quality of their program.

**Gold level** programs a demonstrating a long term commitment to high quality standards within their program to support children, parents and staff.

**Participation level** means the program is working toward meeting the quality indicators of Raising the Bar.