ALLOWABLE CHILD CARE QUALITY ACTIVITIES

The following activities support the training, professional development, and postsecondary education of the child care workforce that do not include activities specific to infants and toddlers:

- Training on early learning and child development topics, including, but not limited to, health and safety, school-age care, inclusion, teaching dual-language learners, understanding developmental screenings, mental health, business management practices, nutrition and physical activity, equity, behavior management, parent relationships, and social-emotional development
- Training or providing stipends toward obtaining a Child Development Associate credential
- Paying tuition or providing stipends to attend early education courses at local community colleges and/or universities
- Supporting early learning programs to pay for substitute teachers so that staff can participate in early learning and child development training
- Providing reimbursement, stipends, or grants to attend local, state, and/or national early childhood conferences
- Providing wage supplements, bonuses, or stipends

The following activities develop, implement, and/or enhance the tiered quality rating and improvement system, Texas Rising Star:

- Hiring and retaining Texas Rising Star staff
- Providing technical assistance to early learning programs to support obtaining, maintaining, or increasing star level within Texas Rising Star
- Providing consumer education designed to drive parent choice toward, and educate parents on, quality child care (parent cafés, parenting classes, and marketing materials)
- Providing one-time or periodic stipends or grants to incentivize Texas Rising Star programs to obtain, maintain, or increase star levels
- Providing materials, equipment, and resources to assist in meeting Texas Rising Star requirements, including, but not limited to, classroom furniture, developmentally appropriate learning materials, curriculum, outdoor equipment, gross motor equipment, and resource books
- Partnering with Texas Rising Star programs that increase the number of children served and programs available to families, including, but not limited to, prekindergarten partnerships

The following activities improve the quality of and supply of infant and toddler early learning programs and services:

- Establishing or expanding high-quality early learning programs to serve infants and/or toddlers
- Providing professional development for early learning program staff and/or training on specific infant/toddler developmentally appropriate practices
- Providing materials, equipment, and resources specific to infant and toddler development, including, but not limited to, cribs, changing tables, tables, chairs, high chairs, adult rocking chairs, and curriculum
- Supporting or implementing local infant/toddler specialist networks
- Coordinating with early intervention specialists who provide services for infant and toddlers with disabilities
- Providing health and safety training specific to infants and toddlers, including, but not limited to, safe sleep practices, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), early brain development, shaken baby syndrome, and sudden infant death syndrome
The following activities support early learning programs in maintaining compliance with minimum health and safety standards or providing high-quality health and safety provisions that do not include activities specific to infants and toddlers:

- Providing training specific to required health and safety standards, which is limited to first aid and CPR training, transportation training, and food handler training
- Supporting Child Care Health Consultants’ work within early learning programs
- Purchasing materials, equipment, and/or resources for early learning programs, including, but not limited to, security systems and automated external defibrillators

The following activities evaluate and assess the quality and effectiveness of child care programs and services offered, including evaluating how such programs positively impact children, which are limited to:

- Purchasing assessment tools to assist early learning programs in measuring effective practice or child development, including, but not limited to, CLASS, PAS, ITERS, and ECERS
- Formal evaluation studies of quality efforts, which would require the submission of an Evaluation Report to the Texas Workforce Commission

The following activities support early learning programs in the pursuit of national accreditation:

- Providing stipends or grants to pay for application and renewal fees
- Providing technical assistance to obtain or maintain national accreditation

Other activities that are limited to shared services.