

Dear School Age Teams:

We are asking that you complete an environmental tool of your indoor/outdoor spaces in 2022. Your team may have one that you already use that works for your site. If that is the case, continue to use that tool. If you are looking for a new one, consider using *The School Age Environmental Tool* developed by the I/Q school-age working group.

The School Age Environmental Tool is a reflective, strength based, assessment tool developed by the school age working group of *Investing in Quality Peterborough* in 2021. It was designed to help educators think deeper about environments that are inclusive of all children. The *Standards of Quality 2020* guided our thinking. This is meant to be a collaborative and reflective process involving all educators. We ask that program sites complete this tool as a team and go through the three steps outlined. Once you have gone through the tool, you can then set goals for both your indoor and outdoor environments.

Step 1: Assessing the strengths of your environments

What are the strengths of your environments? (Consider: physical spaces, routines & schedules, relationships, planning processes, indoors & outdoors, etc.). This is an opportunity to notice what is working well in your environments and what you want to continue.

Step 2: Reflective Questions & Resources

In step two, choose two *Quality Standards* to focus on for your environmental assessment. Choose three questions under the two *Quality Standards* you chose. You will be reflecting on six questions in total. The tool was developed so you can record your observations in the column beside the standards. We also included resources related to each *Quality Standard* for your further learning and goal setting. You can view the Standards of Quality here [Standards of Quality 2020 - Five Counties Children's Centre](#)

You may choose to observe and reflect on these questions over a couple of weeks or months to give all educators a chance to consider each area of focus.

Step 3: Reflections of Learning & Goal Setting

Identify one change you would like to work on this year for both your indoor and outdoor spaces. In the QEP, you will be asked to reflect on your environmental assessments and share one meaningful change you made based on this assessment and what more you would like to focus on. The assessment tool you use does not need to be handed in with your QEP submission, but you will note these in your submission due **November 31, 2022**.

Contact your Quality Coordinator or Resource Consultant if you have questions. We are happy to help!