

Cerritos Community College District • 11110 Alondra Blvd. • Norwalk CA 90650 • www.cerritos.edu

View the online release here: <http://www.cerritos.edu/releases-2025/03/CDC.htm>

Cerritos College Child Development Center achieves 5-star rating for excellence in care and education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 12, 2025

Media Contact: [Aya Aoki](#); Public Relations

NORWALK, Calif. – March 12, 2025 – The Cerritos College Child Development Center (CDC) recently earned a Tier 5 rating from Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA), the highest distinction in the county-wide initiative that supports early learning providers in improving care for children from birth to age five. QSLA is part of the statewide Quality Counts California initiative, which encompasses all 58 counties.



For over 50 years, the college's CDC has provided high-quality childcare to the community, including student-parents and employees, while also serving as a laboratory school for training future early childhood education teachers. Inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach, the center embraces child-centered social constructivism, allowing children to build knowledge through daily experiences with parents, teachers, peers, events, and objects in their environment. The center is designated as an Outdoor Classroom Demonstration Site for Los Angeles County, and its

playground area features a certified wildlife habitat.

"Our rating informs families about how our program measures up to the quality standards established by the state of California," said Carolyn Lapitan, interim director of CDC. "These standards align with our mission to consistently provide a safe, positive, and engaging learning environment for the children in our care."

About Cerritos College: Cerritos College serves as a comprehensive community college for southeastern Los Angeles County. Communities within the college's district include Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs, and South Gate. Cerritos College offers nearly 300 degree and certificate programs in nine divisions. Annually, more than 5,000 students successfully complete their course of studies. Enrollment currently averages 21,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at <http://www.cerritos.edu/>.

-END-