



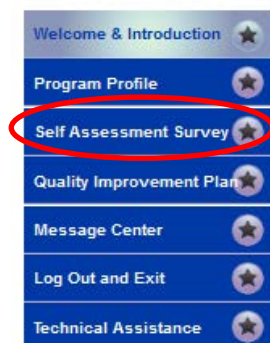
November 8, 2011

Dear Child Care Provider:

On October 14th the state of Michigan successfully launched the Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System, *Great Start to Quality*. Over the past 3 weeks programs have had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the system, and verify Great Start CONNECT program profile information. Now programs are ready to experience the Self-Assessment component of the *Great Start to Quality* system.

Great Start to Quality Self-Assessment Survey (SAS) feature launched November 1st.

Programs access *Great Start to Quality* through the Great Start CONNECT profile. Once in *Great Start to Quality*, programs can access the Self-Assessment Survey (SAS) from the tool bar on the left. By clicking the Self-Assessment Survey button, it begins the SAS process and a SAS is generated for completion.



The survey will guide programs through a series of simple questions designed to assess how well it matches the *Great Start to Quality* standards.

Please note: Programs do not need to complete the SAS all at once, as progress on the assessment will be saved with each session. This means that programs do not have to submit the SAS until ready.

Once complete, the system will prompt the program to submit. By clicking "submit" the information entered will be submitted for official review. This will "lock" the survey, preventing the program from making any additional changes. Once submitted, the system will provide a preliminary quality Level (Level One – Level Five), which will only be provisional until reviewed and approved by *Great Start to Quality* staff.

As a reminder, the quality level will not be published to Great Start CONNECT until the fall of 2012. This is important to keep in mind as the program has an opportunity to continue improving the quality level of the program before the levels are published.



With the future release of the *Great Start to Quality* Improvement Plan feature in December along with the results of the Self-Assessment Survey to identify areas for potential improvement, programs will begin work with *Great Start to Quality* staff to develop a structured plan to improve the quality of the program. Support from *Great Start to Quality* staff varies depending on the program type.

At all quality levels, the SAS system component will allow programs to monitor and track progress toward their quality improvement goals, and to track any corresponding changes to quality levels. The system will display thresholds met for each indicator and the total points achieved toward reaching the next level of quality.

For more information visit the *Great Start to Quality* site.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Roback".

Karen Roback
Director of Early Learning Innovation
Early Childhood Investment Corporation