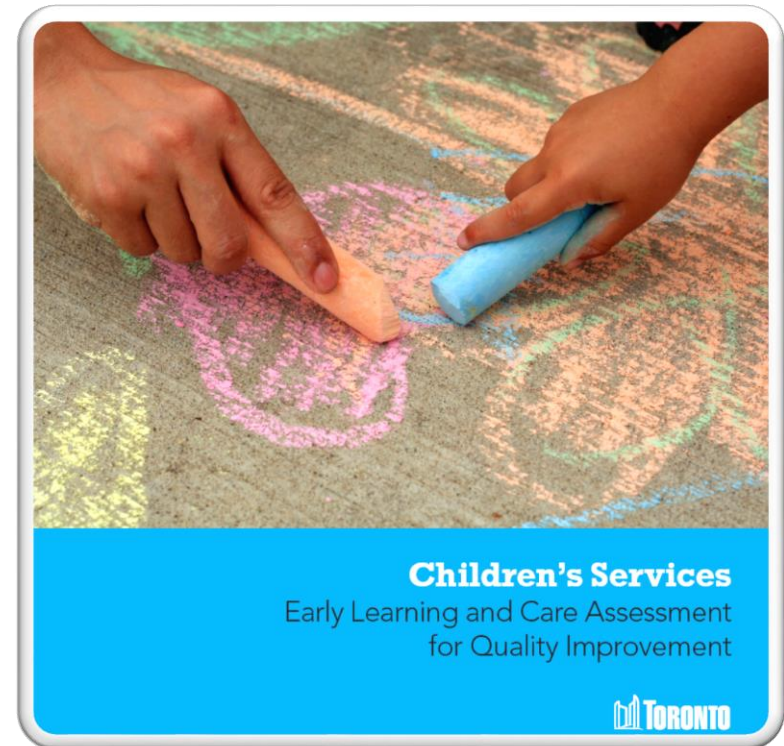


Toronto's Empirically Based Early Childhood Education and Care Accountability System

ANNE HEPDITCH, CITY OF TORONTO

Assessment for Quality Improvement (AQI)

- Set of Universal quality standards
- Canada's only validated QRIS – proven to measure program quality
- Evidence based
- Supports quality and pedagogical practices
- Use the assessment outcomes for planning and quality improvement



AQI's role in supporting quality

AQI

Not a checklist

Measures quality regardless of philosophy

Standard quality indicators that supports
How Does Learning Happen, Pedagogy

Licensing measures functional quality; AQI
measures process

Critical component is assessment of
interactions

Benefits

Set of criteria measuring across Auspice

Regardless of your policies regarding profit and
non-profit, treats all operators the same

Allows you to compare and respond
strategically based on empirical data

Ensures all children have benefit from quality
learning environments that support positive
child outcomes

Other municipalities using AQI so children
across 4 municipalities have similar quality
experiences - children

AQI: Quality Rating Improvement System



Infant
Early Learning and Care Assessment
for Quality Improvement

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Toddler
Early Learning and Care Assessment
for Quality Improvement



Preschool
Early Learning and Care Assessment
for Quality Improvement



Schoolage
Early Learning and Care Assessment
for Quality Improvement

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Other quality measures




Playground
Early Learning and Care Assessment
for Quality Improvement

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Financial
Early Learning and Care Assessment for
Quality Improvement

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Children's Services
Home Child Care Assessment
for Quality Improvement

Toronto

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Striving for quality

- Annual assessments
- Short and long-term goal setting
- Reflective conversations
- Ongoing coaching and mentoring by assigned city staff
- Capacity building
- Quality ratings published online



Published Quality Ratings

Program Offerings and Quality Ratings

Early Years Programs	Capacity	Vacancy ⁺	Quality Rating
<u>Infant</u>	10	No	<u>4.92</u> / 5
<u>Toddler</u>	10	No	<u>4.75</u> / 5
<u>Preschool</u>	16	No	<u>4.73</u> / 5

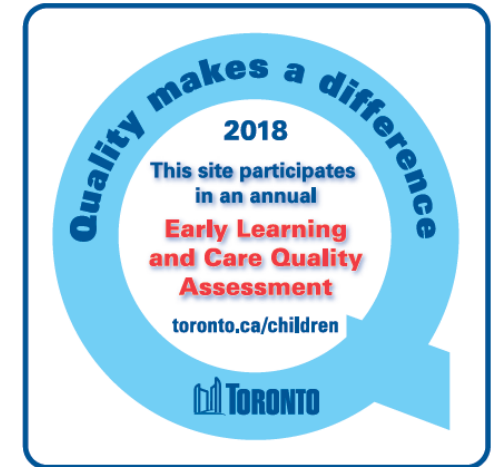
⁺ Vacancies change regularly. Please contact centre for the most current information.

Centre Contact

Using the results from these Assessments

The quality assessment outcomes:

- Informs Children's Services professional learning plan:
 - City staff
 - Sector stakeholders
- Supports strategic direction
- Informs the sector about continuous quality improvement
- Supports families to make informed decisions related to their child care choice



What does the data tell us?

67% of child care centres met minimum quality requirements prior to publishing the results online. **One year later** that **increased** to **over 90%** of programs.

Average quality ratings - 2017

Rating by Auspice

Auspice		
COMMERCIAL	4.2048	or 84% in compliance
NON PROFIT	4.1288	or 82% in compliance
PUBLIC	4.5422	or 91% in compliance

Overall ratings

Rating by Auspice

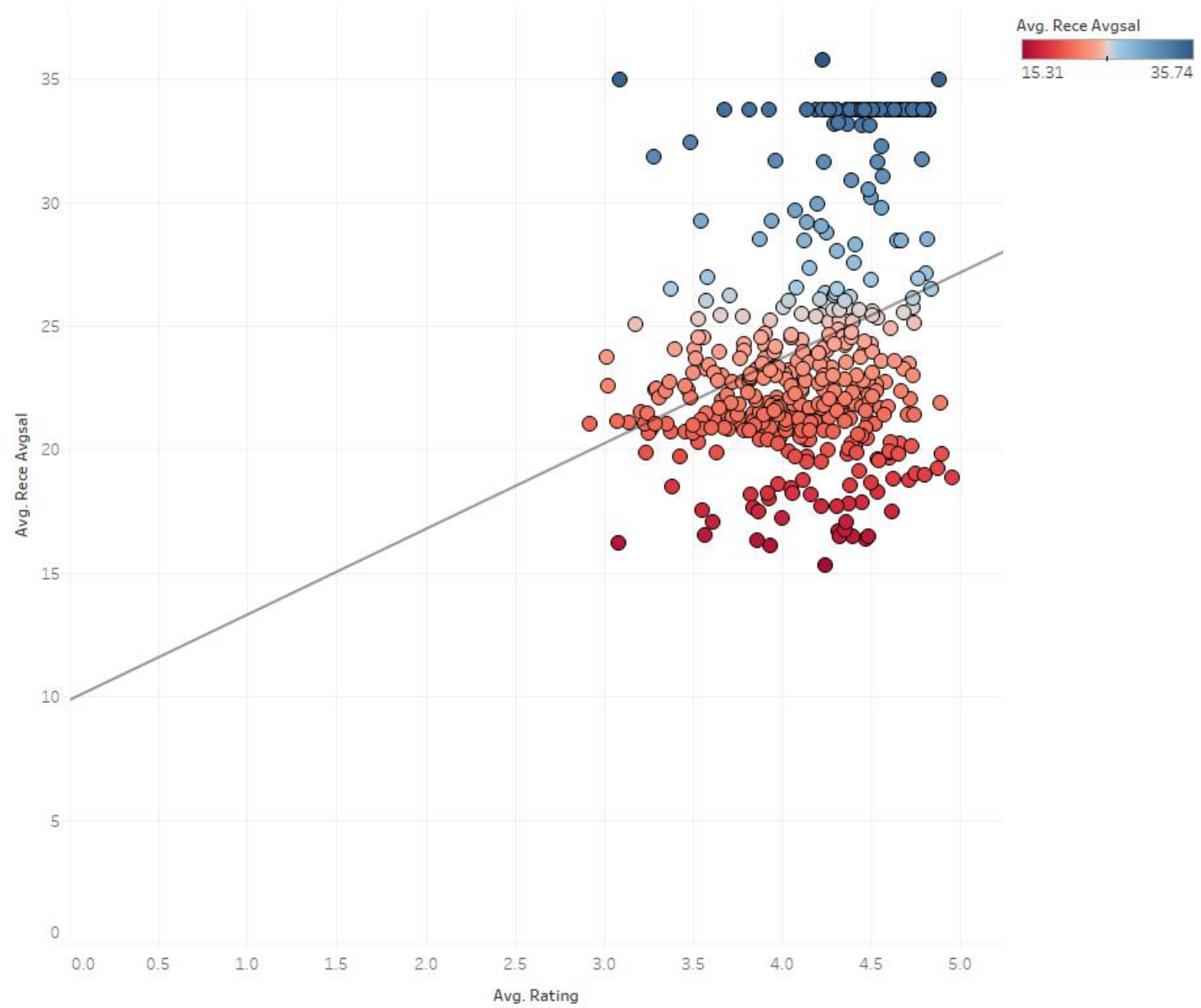
Auspice		
COMMERCIAL	4.3068	or 86% in compliance
NON PROFIT	4.3875	or 88% in compliance
PUBLIC	4.5689	or 91% in compliance

Interactions only ratings

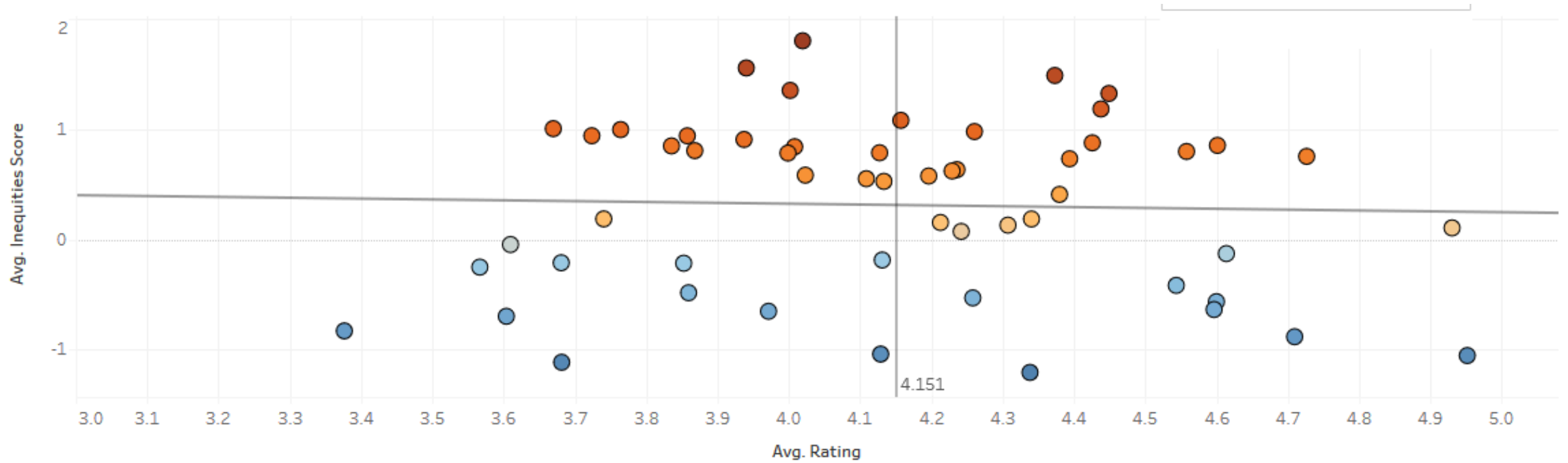
Quality Ratings Deeper Dive

- Budgets will ask to increase program supplies, training etc.
- Robust professional learning strategy informed by results
- Pay of ECE and impact on quality, commercial pay lower ratings lower

Average RECE salary and Average AQI Rating



Inequities & Quality



What do we need to do to ensure all families have access to high-quality early learning programs?

Invest in high-quality early learning programs

