

Quality First Scholarships Program
Enrollment Packet for Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

(Date)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This letter confirms that your child, _____, has a Quality First Scholarship
(Child's Name)
to attend _____ . The terms and conditions of this Scholarship
(QF Participating Site Name)
are included in the Family Application.

As part of the enrollment process for the Quality First Scholarships Program, the attached forms must be completed and returned to us by your start date of _____. Failure to read and sign the
(Scholarship Start Date)
attached acknowledgements will result in a delay of enrollment. Once returned to us, we will maintain a copy of the signed acknowledgements in your child's file and you will receive a copy for your records.

Thank you for choosing our program! We look forward to our continued relationship with you and your child. Should you have any questions or concerns about the policies outlined in the Family Application or the attached acknowledgements, please contact the Scholarships team at Valley of the Sun United Way at regionalscholarships@vsuw.org or 1-866-973-0012.

For more information about First Things First, please visit <https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/>

Sincerely,

(Director/Owner's Name)

(Title)

(Contact Phone Number)

Participating in

Family Award Notification

The Quality First Scholarship provides tuition reimbursement from First Things First so that your child may benefit from quality early care and education.

_____ has a full time part time Scholarship. As of today, First
(Child's Name)
Things First reimburses _____ each
(QF Participating Site Name) (Monthly Scholarship Rate)
month based on our Quality First rating and the age of your child. Please be aware that this rate may fluctuate with changes to your child's scheduled time and age. You will be notified by our program if/when these changes occur.

First Things First provides a rate that may not only cover tuition, but also supports our ability to maintain quality so that your child can be cared for and learn in an environment that has the following:

- A variety of activities and materials to stimulate growth and development physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially;
- Enriched teacher-child interactions that ensure your child has individual attention, which encourages their use of language as well as problem solving and social skills; and
- Operational practices to ensure that staff are skilled and implementing developmentally appropriate lesson plans, as well as to ensure that you are informed of your child's growth and development.

Not only do you benefit from this Scholarship, but so does our program in its ability to maintain best practices in early childhood education. We use the tuition we receive to enhance quality of our learning materials, support training teachers and staff, and ensure a safe and healthy environment.

I, _____, understand that my early education and childcare
(Parent/Guardian's Name)
participant receives a monthly reimbursement from First Things First based on their Quality First rating and the age of my child. I understand that this reimbursement not only contributes to my child's tuition, but also supports my participant's ability to maintain and support a quality learning environment.

(Parent/Guardian's Signature)

(Date)

Summary of Attendance Expectations

❖ What is expected of my child and me?

Scholarships are awarded at two levels: Part Time and Full Time.

A part time scholarship requires that your child be scheduled to attend a minimum of **eight (8) days** and **34 hours** per month. A full time scholarship requires that your child be scheduled to attend a minimum of **eight (8) days** and **93 hours** per month.

Your early education and childcare QF participant may **revoke your scholarship** if your child fails to attend at least **85%** of the time that they are scheduled. Absences are considered excused at the discretion of your participant, however, your participant cannot charge you additional fees for absences as the QF Scholarship reimbursement covers days scheduled and includes absences. Chronic and/or unexcused absences should be addressed through your participant’s absenteeism policy. It is your responsibility to comply with your participant’s policy for documenting excused absences.

❖ Benefits of Consistent Attendance

The Quality First Scholarships Program was developed to provide access to high quality early childcare and education. Inconsistent attendance is one of the most significant barriers to your child receiving early learning opportunities. In contrast, consistent attendance helps contribute to success in an early learning environment and your child’s future education in the following ways:

- ➔ Children **thrive** in the care of familiar caregivers who play a **significant role** in their lives over time
- ➔ Children who remain with the same group of children longer are **more peer-oriented** and **less solitary** over time than those whose peer groups have changed frequently; and they are **friendlier toward peers in distress**
- ➔ Children with **consistent** preschool attendance have **higher** kindergarten readiness scores
- ➔ **Consistent** attendance is a **habit**, that if formed early, will continue into later years

I, _____, understand the attendance expectations as they have been
(Parent/Guardian's Name)
 presented to me. I understand that if I fail to bring _____ to their
(Child's Name)
 early education and childcare QF participant at least **85% of their scheduled time**, my participant reserves the right to **revoke their scholarship**.

(Parent/Guardian's Signature)

(Date)