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## ABSTRACT

### PILOT TEST OF A QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM IN EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN MAGADAN, RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND IN MINNESOTA, USA

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Quality of early education is an essential aspect of programs that serve young children. Research included in this review found that high quality contributes to children's learning, school readiness, social, emotional and neurological development, language proficiency, vocabulary, and a variety of learning skills that will help them succeed academically. This study examined two questions: (1) What quality rating and improvement System (QRIS) will be useful for improving early childhood education programs in Magadan Region, RU and in Minnesota, USA? and (2) What is the agreement among raters in the US and in Russia, using scores on a QRIS for early childhood education programs in Magadan Region, RU and in Minnesota, USA? The study included translation of the Global Guidelines Assessment (GGA) (ACEI, 2008) into Russian. One quality review (using the GGA) was completed for one early education program in each country. Completed data from eleven reviewers were delivered to Minnesota State University, Mankato for data entry and analysis. Half the reviewers were internal assessors on the staff of the programs that were reviewed. The other reviewers were external assessors, from the regional universities. The ratings of reviewers in each country were examined for the degree of consistency among their observations. Inter-rater agreement was determined by examining the correlations for each program area and for the total GGA. Inter-rater agreement was examined to understand the extent to which different reviewers found similar results when independently assessing the program of interest. The report includes: (1) descriptive data for reviewers and for early education programs and (2) inter-rater agreement (consistency among reviewers). This study concluded that there was excellent inter-rater agreement among reviewers in Russia and in the US. As a result, this investigation concluded that the Global Guidelines Assessment will be useful for comparing early childhood education programs in Magadan, Russian Federation and in Minnesota, USA because the GGA is easy, affordable, and reliable to use for quality

improvement of early education throughout the world. Now the GGA may be used in Russia as well for future research and evaluation projects.