



## Reach for the STARS!

### Where children spend their day can affect their learning for life!

Choosing a child care program is a big decision. Finding a quality program that is the right fit for your child will help prepare him/her for success in school and in life.

Keystone STARS helps families find quality child care/ early learning and afterschool programs for their children.

Administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Keystone STARS is a voluntary program that awards a STAR 1 to STAR 4 to child care, Head Start, and select PA Pre-K Counts programs.

When you choose a Keystone STARS program, you know it meets quality standards for

- Teacher qualifications;
- Classroom and learning activities;
- Working with families; and
- Program management.

**Count the STARS.** The higher the STAR level, the higher the quality.

**Pennsylvania's Promise for Children**  
Because every child is Pennsylvania's future  
[www.papromiseforchildren.com](http://www.papromiseforchildren.com)

## What to expect at a STAR 3 program



- Lead teachers have at least an Associate's degree in early childhood education.
- Teachers hold a meeting with families when a child enrolls, provide daily updates on the child's activities and hold at least two teacher conferences to share child's progress each year.
- Teachers assess children's development three times a year, the first within 45 days of enrollment.
- Teachers use the PA Early Learning standards to develop curriculum and learning activities.
- Programs receive an independent evaluation of their classroom setup and learning activities using a standardized tool (Environment Rating Scale).
- Program works with families and schools to make a smooth transition for children to kindergarten
- Staff receive at least three employee benefits, such as health insurance, which helps reduce staff turnover.
- Staff complete continuing education each year.