



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

What to expect at a STAR 4 program



- At least half of lead teachers have a Bachelor's degree in early childhood education, all have at least an Associate's degree.
- Teachers hold a meeting with families when a child enrolls, provide daily updates 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 assessment.
- Programs receive independent evaluation of their classroom setup and learning activities using a standardized tool (Environment Rating Scale).
- Teachers will meet with each family to make the child's transition to kindergarten easier.
- Staff receive at least four employee benefits, such as health insurance, which helps reduce staff turnover.
- Staff complete continuing education each year.