

How to find a Keystone STARS program

Thousands of early learning programs across Pennsylvania are participating in Keystone STARS, such as:

- Child care centers
- Child care group homes
- Family child care homes
- Head Start programs
- Preschool programs

Here are some ways to find a Keystone STARS program near you:

- Visit www.papromiseforchildren.com
- Visit COMPASS at www.compass.state.pa.us
- Call 1-877-4-PA-KIDS (1-877-472-5437)
- Contact your local Child Care Information Services (CCIS) agency.

Keystone STARS is made possible by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Count the STARS!

As programs move up the STARS ladder, they meet higher quality standards. For example:

Teacher requirements increase:

- ★ At STAR 2, half of lead teachers have an Associate's degree in early childhood education.
- ★ At STAR 3, all lead teachers have at least an Associate's degree.
- ★ At STAR 4, half of lead teachers have a Bachelor's degree; the rest have an Associate's degree.

Classroom quality increases:

- ★ At STAR 1, programs have the PA Early Learning Standards on hand.
- ★ At STAR 2, programs **also** use a standardized tool (Environment Rating Scale - ERS) to evaluate and improve their classroom and learning activities.
- ★ At STAR 3 and 4, programs **also** receive an independent evaluation using the ERS tool.

Family communication increases:

- ★ At STAR 1, families meet with the teacher when the child enrolls.
- ★ At STAR 2, teachers **also** provide daily updates on the child's activities and hold one teacher conference each year.
- ★ At STAR 3 & 4, teachers **also** hold a second teacher conference each year.

To learn more, visit www.papromiseforchildren.com.

Looking for quality child care?



Reach for the STARS!



Pennsylvania's Promise for Children
Because every child is Pennsylvania's future.
www.papromiseforchildren.com

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

When you choose a quality child care/early learning or afterschool program, your child:

- is safe while you are at school or work;
- will be encouraged to explore new things;
- will learn important academic skills like language and numbers, but also how to play well with others, follow directions, and practice self-discipline; and
- is more likely to enter kindergarten prepared, do better in school, graduate high school and attend college.



Choose quality child care/early learning for your child through Keystone STARS!

Choosing a child care program is a big decision. The teachers, classmates, and learning activities will help shape what your child will become. Finding a program that is the right fit for your child will also prepare him/her for success in school and in life.

Keystone STARS can help.

Child care, Head Start and preschool programs that participate in Keystone STARS are making a commitment to provide a quality education to your child. Programs earn a STAR 1 to STAR 4 rating by meeting quality standards for:

- **Teacher qualifications:** Early childhood teachers have the education and knowledge to work with young children.
- **Classroom and learning activities:** The program has a variety of materials and activities for each age level that makes it possible for children to learn something new every day!
- **Working with families:** The program treats families as a partner in their children's growth and development, and helps families access other community resources that they may need like food assistance through WIC or health insurance through CHIP.
- **Management:** A quality program has to have sound business practices to ensure your child's safety and learning.

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

When looking for a child care or afterschool program for your child, ask if they participate in Keystone STARS.

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