



Reach for the STARS!

Where your child spends his day can affect his learning for life!

Keystone STARS helps families find – and afford – quality early learning 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.

Eligible programs may receive targeted financial supports to improve quality without passing the cost on to families. **Keystone STARS is quality you can afford.**

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

Count the Stars!



As programs move up the STARS ladder, they meet higher quality standards. Here are three examples:

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 or 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