

Our Children Grow Every Day. So Does Step Up To Quality.



880 Early Childhood Programs Now Star Rated – 80 More than Goal Set by Governor

When Governor Strickland called for the quality of early care and education to reach new heights, 880 programs answered by becoming Step Up To Quality Star Rated.

Study after study shows that what our youngest citizens learn from birth through age 5 greatly influences their success in school and in life. That's why Step Up To Quality was created to provide Ohio children with early care and education experiences that go beyond the minimum standards of licensing.

Step Up To Quality programs earn one, two or three stars. Each star signals a higher standard for staff qualifications and planned early learning activities.

Progress Report: July 2008 – June 2009

78,000 Ohio Children Enrolled in Step Up To Quality Star Rated Programs

All children benefit from Step Up To Quality's higher standards, particularly children from low-income families. Last year, Step Up To Quality served 39% of Ohio children who are living at or below poverty level which means household earnings are less than \$35,208 a year for a family of three.

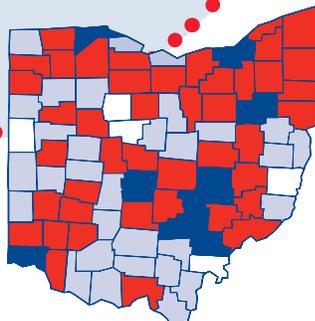
3 Star Programs
 7,800
 2,000
 ● Total Children: 78,000
 ● Subsidized Children: 30,548

2 Star Programs
 17,940
 6,287

1 Star Programs
 52,260
 22,261

83 Counties Have Star Rated Programs

● June 2007
 ● June 2008
 ● June 2009



What Makes Step Up To Quality Star Rated Programs So Special?

- Highly trained teachers
- Fewer children per classroom
- Commitment to continuous improvement
- Early education programming based on Ohio's Infant & Toddler Guidelines and Early Learning Content Standards.



93% Growth in Step Up To Quality Star Rated Programs Since Last Year

● June 2007
 ● June 2008
 ● June 2009



Valuable Incentives Motivate Programs to Pursue Star Quality

Earning a Star Rating in Step Up To Quality is an exacting process that early childhood programs must undergo annually. The state offers financial support, technical assistance and recognition to keep programs in the Step Up To Quality fold and to encourage new involvement. The huge growth in Star Rated programs shows these incentives are working. The number of participating programs nearly doubled from 455 to 880 in one year, and more programs used incentives to improve staff education and their facilities than in past years.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Ohio Scholarships

307 teachers statewide are working toward associate degrees in early childhood education. Scholarships pay a portion of tuition and book costs.

Quality Achievement Awards

\$7,752,000 was earned by Star Rated programs over the past year and used to fund a wide range of program improvements. Furniture, activity centers and teacher compensation were the top three uses for 2008-2009 award dollars.

Specialized Trainings

47,691 early childhood professionals gained new knowledge and skills to support 21st century learners.

More Programs Benefiting from Step Up To Quality Incentives

Incentive	7/07-6/08	7/08-6/09
Specialized Training Attendees	26,230	47,691
Professional Development Registrants	14,000	26,803
T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Ohio Scholarships	234	307
Quality Achievement Awards	\$3,894,000	\$7,752,000

Online Professional Registry

26,803 early childhood and school-age education professionals track their career paths and access information about specific training courses – all conveniently on-line – through the Ohio Professional Development Registry.



Thanks to continued support, more Ohio children will have high-quality early learning experiences.

51 Programs Advance Their Star Ratings – Moving Up Adds Up for Children

Programs that achieve a one- or two- Star Rating typically don't stop there. This year, 51 of these programs earned an additional star and stepped up to another level of quality. Plus, research from The Ohio State University confirms that as programs add stars, children display more independent learner characteristics and skills to help them meet the requirements of a 21st century education.

12 moved from two to three stars

37 moved from one to two stars

2 moved from one to three stars



Ohio | Department of Job and Family Services

Ted Strickland, **Governor**, State of Ohio

Douglas E. Lumpkin, **Director**, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Equal Opportunity Employer and Service Provider

www.stepuptoquality.org