

Step Up To Quality

What's your plan?

All Ohio child care programs serving families receiving publicly funded child care (PFCC) must participate in Step Up To Quality by July 1, 2020. More than 2,300 programs in Ohio already are star-rated!

Achieving star ratings is good for the children you care for—and good for your business, too! It's also easier than you think. Check out these FREE resources:

- Free curriculums that can help you achieve 1 and 2 stars
- Free trainings in a variety of topics, including health and safety standards and child care best practices. Many provide Ohio Approved Hours. Visit registry.occrra.org/cart/training_list to learn more.
- Scholarships for child care providers interested in earning associate's degrees. Visit occrra.org/our-resources-page.
- Free technical assistance from state staff, county staff and your local child care resource and referral agency:
 - jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/providers.stm
 - occrra.org/member-agencies
- Free Step Up To Quality Fairs, where you can learn how to prepare for, register for and maintain a star rating:
 - May 18 – Child Care Center Fair in Columbus
 - May 18 – Family Child Care Fair in Dayton

Need online or in-person curriculum training for TS Gold?

Visit the Ohio Professional Registry at registry.occrra.org/cart/training_list. Programs with curriculums issued through ODJFS also can take advantage of in-person trainings offered by Teaching Strategies: teachingstrategies.com/solutions/develop

Want a FREE Curriculum?

More than 1,100 Ohio programs have received free curriculums and assessments.

The following are available free of charge:

- The Creative Curriculum® and Gold® Assessment
- High Scope

To be eligible, programs must:

- Be licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services or the Ohio Department of Education **AND**
- Have an active PFCC provider agreement **AND**
- Have provided PFCC services to at least one child within 90 days prior to the request date **AND**
- Currently not be using a curriculum or not be using either of the curriculums purchased by the state **AND**
- Currently be Step Up To Quality rated or have an active registration for a star rating.

To request a curriculum or assessment, complete and submit the JFS 01598, "Curriculum and Assessment Request for Step Up To Quality," to Curriculum-Request@jfs.ohio.gov. The form can be found at jfs.ohio.gov/form01598.

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants...

How can Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Consultants help me?

Early childhood mental health is the social, emotional and behavioral well-being of children birth through 5 and their families, including the capacity to:

- Experience, regulate and express emotion
- Form close, secure relationships
- Explore the environment and learn

Early childhood mental health is influenced by:

- Physical characteristics of the young child
- Quality of the adult relationships in the child's life
- Caregiving environments the child is in
- Community context in which the child and family live

ECMH consultants collaborate with early childhood providers to help them understand and problem-solve challenging child behaviors and help retain children in classrooms and child care settings. Services include on-site classroom, child- and program-focused consultation for teachers and staff, and resources for parents. ECMH master trainers and consultants provide Ohio Approved training and professional development on a variety of topics, including successful transitions, classroom management, trauma-informed approaches to challenging behavior and adult resiliency. Call the Ohio Preschool Expulsion Prevention Partnership Hotline for children needing stabilization support at 1-844-678-ABC's (2227).

Want more info? Email MH-SOT-kids@mha.ohio.gov.



Ready to start the process to become rated?

Visit boldbeginning.org for Step Up to Quality Resources or contact your child care licensing specialist today!