

Ohio's 5-Star Quality Rating System

Step Up To Quality was created by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' Bureau of Child Care and Development and the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Learning and School Readiness to improve the quality of early care and education programs in Ohio.

What is Early Childhood Ohio?

Early Childhood Ohio was created to coordinate and communicate all early childhood learning and development programs, products and services being supported by the Ohio Departments of Education, Health, Job and Family Services, Mental Health & Addiction Services, as well as the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council.

The www.earlychildhoodohio.org website provides updates on the state's Early Learning Challenge Grant systems building/strengthening initiatives:

- Step Up To Quality
- Early Learning and Development Standards (Birth to Kindergarten Entry)
- Early Childhood Comprehensive Assessment System
- Professional Development



Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Department of
Job and Family Services

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Equal Opportunity Employer and Service Provider

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Reach for the Stars!



Ohio's Tiered Quality Rating & Improvement System



What is Step Up To Quality?

Step Up To Quality is a quality rating and improvement system for early learning and development programs. Programs can earn a 1-, 2-, 3-, 4- or 5-Star Rating by meeting Ohio's quality program standards.

Step Up To Quality Means:

- Highly trained teachers
- Development of school readiness skills
- Commitment to continuous improvement
- Focus on family engagement

Learn More About Becoming a Star Rated Program

www.earlychildhoodohio.org



Early Experiences Last a Lifetime



1-STAR Programs

- Administrators and teachers show a commitment to increasing professional knowledge and skills by receiving 20 hours of specialized training every two years.
- Teachers become familiar with the *Ohio Early Learning and Development Standards* to support children's development and learning.
- Programs begin building relationships with families and communities which support children's progress and well-being.



2-STAR Programs

- The program demonstrates commitment to quality by hiring teachers with higher education qualifications than 1-Star programs.
- Teachers use the *Ohio Early Learning and Development Standards* to support children's learning.
- The program engages in a continuous improvement process by completing a self-assessment.
- Administrators and teachers are committed to increasing professional knowledge and skills by receiving 20 hours of specialized training every two years.



3-STAR Programs

- The program demonstrates commitment to quality by hiring teachers with higher education qualifications than 2-Star programs.
- Administrators and teachers are committed to increasing professional knowledge and skills by receiving 20 hours of specialized training every two years.
- Staff conducts self-assessments and uses the results to identify strengths and develop action plans to improve classroom practice.
- The program expands the continuous improvement process by developing an action plan with goals for overall program development.
- Children's individual needs are met and child progress is monitored and shared regularly with families.
- Families and staff work together to develop goals for children.



4 & 5-STAR Programs

Achieving a 4- or 5-Star Rating means that a program has demonstrated a level of quality that meets all the requirements of a 3-Star Rating and is eligible to gain the additional points needed to achieve a higher Star Rating.

Programs have the flexibility to earn points in the areas that best support their values, goals and structure. Here are some examples of increased quality at the 4- and 5-Star level:

- Administrators and teachers hold higher education qualifications than 3-Star programs.
- Administrators and teachers demonstrate the value of ongoing professional development by completing more than the required 20 hours of specialized training every two years.
- The needs, interests and abilities of children are the basis for developing experiences and activities.
- Teachers use child assessment results to plan activities and make changes to their classroom to best support learning and development goals for each child.



- Program has an active and organized parent volunteer group.
- Families and community partners' input is used to inform the program's continuous improvement process.
- Programs work collaboratively with families to share assessment results, create goals for children and develop plans to support children as they transition to a new classroom or educational setting.
- Programs work with other organizations or businesses within the community to support children and their families.
- Lower Teacher/Child Ratios.
- Program is accredited by an approved organization.

