

Step Up To Quality (SUTQ)

Ready to join SUTQ? Join your colleagues in becoming rated! As of July, 65% of centers and 72% of family child care programs with agreements were rated. Here are some ways to integrate SUTQ standards into your daily practices:

1. Choose and plan daily experiences for children that support their development at just the right level. Use the free downloadable "Early Learning and Development Standards Implementation Guide," available at earlychildhoodohio.org, to make activity planning easy to do. When activities aren't too easy or too hard for children, they are more engaged and get the most out of the learning experiences.
2. Use a tool such as the JFS 01511, "Family Information for Step Up To Quality (SUTQ)," to obtain important information about children and their families. Understanding a child's home culture, structure and routines allows program staff to adjust their practices to help children and families acclimate to the child care environment.
3. Use a tool such as the JFS 01521, "Teacher Observation for Step Up To Quality (SUTQ)," to observe staff or to reflect on your own actions. Assessing areas for improvement and then changing those areas for the better can help adults stay positive and focused.
4. Assess children as part of their normal daily routine, observing their skills during fun experiences and activities. Use the information that you learn to plan more activities that they will be interested in and that will support their learning. When children believe they are just playing and having fun, assessment results are most accurate.
5. Involve program staff, parents and community members in the program every day. Develop relationships with neighborhood businesses that support families. Ask parents to join in classroom activities to support the program, but also provide support for them. For example, provide a basket of pre-packaged breakfast snacks for parents or allow schedule changes when necessary. This will create an environment of positive support for everyone involved in the program.

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 Curriculum and Assessment

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 Publicly Funded Child Care (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.

FREE Resources to Help Your Program Become 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 allow you to meet 1- and 2-star standards and help you achieve a 3-, 4- and 5-star rating.
- 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 or a child development associate credential. 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

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is hosting a series of regional "A Road Map to Quality" fairs across the state. Attend the fair near you to learn how to prepare for, register for and maintain a star rating:

- Sept. 7 – Child Care Center Fair in Cincinnati
- Sept. 21 – Family Child Care Fair in Toledo
- Oct. 19 – Child Care Center Fair in Zaleski, near Athens
- Nov. 2 – Family Child Care Fair in Cincinnati

Need online or in-person curriculum training for Creative Curriculum or Teaching Strategies 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



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!