



## Congratulations!!

Your child is enrolled, or you may be considering enrolling your child, in a learning and development program whose level of quality exceeds Ohio's child care licensing standards.

High quality learning and development program settings are important because early experiences last a lifetime. Your child has 1,892 days from the day they are born until they enter kindergarten. What happens on this journey lays the foundation for success in school and life.

A Step Up To Quality **One-Star** rated program means that your child is in a program where:

- **The administrator, lead teachers and assistant teachers complete 20 hours of specialized training every two years.**  
The administrator and teaching staff are committed to expanding their knowledge and skills to better support your child's development and learning.
- **Teachers are familiar with Ohio's Early Learning and Development Standards.**  
Your child's program is aware that there are standards that explain child development and this information assists teachers in supporting your child's growth and learning.
- **The program focuses on building relationships with families.**  
The program builds relationships with families and makes information available about community services and resources that support all family structures.
- **The program is committed to continuous improvement.**  
Your child's program focuses on the continuous improvement process, and looks for ways to make their good program even better. By conducting self-assessments, the program is working to identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement.

**For more information on your program or other star rated programs visit**  
[www.odjfs.state.oh.us/cdc/query.asp](http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/cdc/query.asp)

To stay current with information regarding learning and development programs in your area and statewide, visit [www.earlychildhoodohio.org](http://www.earlychildhoodohio.org)





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A Step Up To Quality **Two-Star** Rated program means that your child is in a program where:

- **The administrator, lead teachers and assistant teachers complete 20 hours of specialized training every two years.**  
The administrator and teaching staff are committed to expanding their knowledge and skills to better support your child's development and learning.
- **Teachers develop activity plans that include all areas of development.**  
Teachers use the Ohio Early Learning and Development Standards when planning your child's day. Your child's program uses research based information to create an environment where your child can learn and grow.
- **Staff participate in an annual classroom self-assessment process to identify the quality of their classroom environment.**  
Teachers evaluate the quality of their classrooms which provides information to better support your child's growth and development.
- **The program builds relationships with families.**  
Teachers and families work together to create goals for your child and share information about your child's progress. The program offers at least one event to involve families in their child's learning and development.

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A Step Up To Quality **Three-Star** rated program means that your child is in a program where:

- **The administrator and teachers have higher education qualifications.**  
The administrator and 50% of lead teachers have an associate's degree or equivalent. These qualifications benefit your child's development and learning.
- **The administrator and teachers complete 20 hours of specialized training every two years.**  
The administrator and teaching staff are committed to expanding their knowledge and skills to better support your child's development and learning.
- **Each year the lead teacher uses results from a classroom self-assessment to develop a plan to improve their classroom.**  
The program evaluates the classrooms and teacher/child interactions to make sure the environment supports children where they are in their development. Programs can then make the changes to better support your child's growth and learning.
- **The program builds relationships with families.**  
Teachers and families work together to create goals for your child and share information about your child's progress. The program offers at least one event to involve families in their child's learning and development.

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A Step Up To Quality **Four-Star** rated program means that your child is in a program that meets all requirements for a Three Star program and has chosen to exceed these requirements. Below are some of the ways a Step Up To Quality Rated program can provide increased quality at the Four Star level.

- **Lower staff/child ratios**  
Teachers have more time to support your child's individual development and learning. This is important because 90% of brain development occurs by the time your child is 6 years old.
- **The administrator and teachers have higher education qualifications.**  
The administrator and most teachers have a bachelor's or master's degree and many years experience working with young children. These qualifications benefit your child's development and learning.
- **The administrator and teachers complete more than 20 hours of specialized training every two years.**  
The administrator and teaching staff are committed to expanding their knowledge and skills to better support your child's development and learning.
- **Teachers use a written plan of activities that covers all areas of development.**  
The program develops a written, research-based lesson plan that provides opportunities for exploration and learning for your child.
- **The program builds relationships with families.**  
Families contribute to their child's education plan and share information about their child's progress toward jointly developed learning goals.
- **The program values input from families and the community.**  
Each year, the program communicates with families and neighborhood organizations about program goals and accomplishments.

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Achieving a Step Up To Quality **Five-Star** rating means that your child is in a program that has demonstrated a level of quality that meets all requirements and standards for the first three rating levels and is eligible to gain additional points needed to achieve a higher star rating. Programs have flexibility to earn points in the areas that best support their values, goals and structure. Below are some of the ways a program can provide increased quality at the Five Star level.

- **Lower staff/child ratios**  
Teachers have more time to support your child's individual development and learning. This is important because 90% of brain development occurs by the time your child is 6 years old.
- **The administrator and teachers have higher education qualifications.**  
The administrator and most teachers have a bachelor's or master's degree and many years experience working with young children. These qualifications benefit your child's development and learning.
- **The administrator and teachers complete more than 20 hours of specialized training every two years.**  
The administrator and teaching staff are committed to expanding their education and skills to better support your child's development and learning.
- **Teachers develop lesson plans that support each child's growth.**  
Teachers plan intentional and purposeful activities and experiences that meet the needs, interests and abilities of children and supports them where they are in their development.
- **The program completes assessments to evaluate and improve the learning experience.**  
Regular assessments are done with your child to help keep track of their growth over time. This lets teachers adjust how they offer experiences to your child daily.
- **The program values its families and community.**  
Programs work with families and neighborhood organizations to provide more opportunities for children.

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