



Reaching higher for quality child care

Keystone STARS (Standards, Training, Assistance, Resource, Support) is a Pennsylvania State Initiative designed to increase the quality of childcare by providing monetary incentives to enable centers to raise their standards.

Keystone Stars Performance Standards

Start With STARS

Start With STARS is the first phase of the program, as centers prepare to begin increasing their quality of care

One Star

Performance Standards:

- * Facility Training Plan
- * Completion of Learning Environment Checklist
- * Documentation of Training within the last six months
- * Facility full license or registration for last 12 months
- * No more than one complaint in the past 12 months

Two Stars

Staff Education:

- * Directors and Family Day Care Homes (FDCH) must complete **12 hours** of training annually
- * Directors and FDCH must attend the Keystone STARS core series of training
- * Staff must complete **9 hours** of training with STARS core series annually

Program Learning Environment:

- * Promote early literacy activities including reading to children and storytelling
- * Books must be made available at times throughout the day
- * Encourage communication both written and verbal

Administration:

- * Encourage parental and community involvement
- * Complete standardized self-assessment on the overall quality of the program
- * Provider must provide staff benefits

*For additional information on the Keystone STARS Initiative Contact:
Community Service For Children, Inc. 1-800-528-7222*

*To Find Out if Your Center Participates in STARS Contact: Childcare Information Services:
570-822-6500*

Three Stars

Staff Education:

- * Directors must attend **18 hours** of training and FDCH must attend **15 hours** of training annually
- * More stringent Early Childhood Ed. requirements for directors and FDCH
- * Other staff must attend up to **15 hours** of training annually

Program Learning Environment:

- * Promote multiple early literacy activities
- * Staff begins to talk about reasons for activities and relationships between objects and the activity occurring
- * Age-appropriate books are readily available throughout the day

Administration:

- * Continue to encourage parental and community involvement with more parental meetings, activities, and information sessions
- * A review with a nationally recognized rating scale is conducted that indicates a minimal score corresponding with quality outcomes for children
- * Provider increases staff compensation benefits

Four Stars

Staff Education:

- * Directors must attend **24 hours** of training and FDCH must attend **18 hours** of training annually
- * Additional Early Childhood Ed. requirements for directors and FDCH
- * Other staff must attend up to **24 hours** of training annually

Program Learning Environment:

- * Activities designed to encourage communication occur naturally in a variety of situations and times throughout the day
- * Children are encouraged to talk about their reasons for their actions, and the reasons why certain objects are used for various activities
- * Books are organized in a reading corner, and children are encouraged to use them throughout the day

Administration:

- * Parental and community resources are used effectively in the delivery of quality child care
- * Provider maximizes business, organization and staff compensation practices
- * External assessment with environmental rating scale that indicates a high score corresponding with quality outcomes for children.

*For Additional Information Regarding Early Childhood Initiatives in Luzerne County Contact
United Way of Wyoming Valley/Success By 6 ®: 570-829-6711*

*This brochure was created by Kwanda Trapp and Megan Maculloch based on information
provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare*