

## Choosing a quality child care program is one of the most important decisions a family will make—QUALITYstarsNY is here to help.

Research shows that children who attend high quality early childhood programs do better in school and throughout life. A high quality early learning environment is vital to each child's growth and development. And it also provides stability—supporting families in the workforce and helping local economies to grow.

QUALITYstarsNY is New York's Quality Rating & Improvement System for regulated early childhood programs serving children birth to age five in child care centers, family child care homes, and public schools with pre-k classrooms. To help ensure success, QUALITYstarsNY assesses programs and provides individualized guidance, comprehensive resources, professional development, and materials to enhance the program's learning environment.

QUALITYstarsNY serves more than 900 programs across New York State, representing nearly 55,000 children and their families. Best of all, QUALITYstarsNY's model of continuous quality improvement works. Among early childhood programs rated multiple times, 70% increased their Star Rating or maintained a high quality rating of 3-5 Stars.

**Families can trust that a child care program participating in QUALITYstarsNY is committed to excellence and supported with resources to create high quality experiences.**

### New York Early Childhood Professional Development Institute The City University of New York

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### New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council

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### About the Institute

The New York Early Childhood Professional Development Institute is a nonprofit catalyst advancing access to excellence in early childhood. It is a public-private partnership within the City University of New York that focuses on improving opportunity for all children from birth through age eight. The Institute builds systems to promote best practices, raise standards and measure effectiveness; it promotes data-driven solutions and accountability; it communicates research results and recommendations to affect lasting change.

### About the The New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)

The New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) is comprised of experts in education, health care, child welfare, family support, and mental health. Members represent state agencies, advocacy groups, foundations, higher education, unions and other key organizations concerned with the wellbeing of young children and their families, as appointed by the Governor. This ensures that a diversity of perspectives and experiences inform our work. The ECAC was formed in 2009 to provide counsel to the Governor on issues related to young children and their families.



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QUALITYstarsNY<sup>SM</sup>

[qualitystarsny.org](http://qualitystarsny.org)

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## Improving the Quality of Early Childhood in New York State

QUALITYstarsNY<sup>SM</sup>



# The Four Key Areas of a Quality Early Childhood Program

QUALITYstarsNY uses four key areas to assess the quality of an early childhood setting. These areas fit together to form a nurturing and exciting place for children to play, learn and grow.

## 1 Learning Environment

Here children play, learn and grow. In a quality setting, spaces are clean and inviting, and equipment, materials and planned activities stimulate learning. Adults interact with children in nurturing, respectful and responsive ways.

## 2 Family Engagement

Family engagement is the way staff works to support and empower families to build on existing best practices for learning at home and at their program. Family members feel respected, welcomed, and invited to participate in decisions that affect their child.

## 3 Staff Qualifications & Experience

Programs known for their excellence have teachers with knowledge and experience in child development and early education.

## 4 Management & Leadership

Strong leadership and management support the entire early childhood program by setting its vision and establishing policies to ensure the program functions properly. This makes it possible for teachers, providers and families to focus on the children.

# How QUALITYstarsNY Works to Ensure Quality Early Childhood Programs

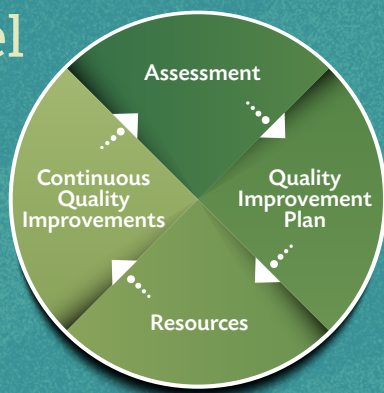
Creating a high quality community of learning promotes robust support services and greater opportunities for all children and their families. Participating programs have access to a variety of resources:

- Individualized guidance from a Quality Improvement Specialist with expertise in early childhood education and program management
- Scholarships, professional development, and training opportunities to help staff further their educational goals and meet higher standards
- Targeted quality improvement supports, including materials, furnishings and resources
- Program management and fiscal tools to help the program thrive

## QUALITYstarsNY Model



All QUALITYstarsNY participants are on a path to excellence and earn a Star Rating. With ongoing, comprehensive support and resources, programs at every Star level enhance their quality over time.



“ I would like to thank QUALITYstarsNY for helping me improve my program. The materials we received made a huge difference in the daily learning activities for the children. They also provided me and my staff with a better and more interesting way to teach. ”

YOHANNY ALEJANDRO  
STARS OF WONDER CHILD CARE  
SLEEPY HOLLOW, NY

## Investing in QUALITYstarsNY

QUALITYstarsNY is expanding across New York State. A sustained, increased state investment would ensure more children and families in your community and statewide can benefit from QUALITYstarsNY’s support.

## Visit us online for more information

- Tools and tips for families choosing a quality early childhood program
- Resources to help educators enhance their program quality
- Join our email list

[qualitystarsny.org](http://qualitystarsny.org)

## QUALITYstarsNY is great for entire communities

 <b>Children</b> <p>All children benefit from participating in high quality, nurturing learning environments, rooted in proven research and techniques that maximize cognitive, social and emotional development to improve school readiness.</p>	 <b>Families</b> <p>All caregivers benefit from having access to online resources with information about the quality of local early childhood programs to help them make the best choice of care for their child.</p>	 <b>Employers</b> <p>Employers benefit from a workforce that is more productive with less absenteeism and turnover when parents are confident their children are being cared for in a high quality setting.</p>	 <b>Teachers &amp; Providers</b> <p>Teachers, providers, and leaders benefit from valuable professional development and resources, customized to strengthen children’s learning outcomes.</p>	 <b>Taxpayers, Policymakers &amp; Donors</b> <p>Taxpayers, policymakers and donors benefit from a set of quality standards that guide improvement and investment, ensure accountability and cost-effectiveness and maximize limited resources.</p>
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