

**Participating in
STARS is Important
for Pennsylvania's
Children!**

WHY?

Research shows that:

- ☆ The mind develops most during the first five years of life
- ☆ A good environment with positive daily activities supports healthy brain development
- ☆ Better trained and educated staff equals better care
- ☆ Children from quality early care and education programs do better in school and have more success later in life

**STARS Ratings Mean
Better Care for
Pennsylvania's
Children!**

**CALL TODAY
215.271.1267**

**Attention Early
Childhood
Practitioners**

**Want to prepare the
children in your
program for school
and life success?**

**Participate in
Keystone STARS!**



Reaching higher for
quality early learning

Southeast Regional Key

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SERVING BUCKS, CHESTER, DELAWARE, MONTGOMERY
AND PHILADELPHIA COUNTIES

**Southeast
Regional Key**



Reaching higher for
quality early learning

***Is Keystone STARS
right for you?***

***Are you right for
Keystone STARS?***

***PA Early Learning
Keys to Quality***

What is Keystone STARS?



Keystone STARS is Pennsylvania's continuous quality improvement system for early care and education and after-school programming. It is based on four STAR levels.

Each STAR level designation has its own research-based performance standards. These standards measure four major areas that make a difference in the quality of care children receive:

- 1) Director/staff qualifications and professional development
- 2) The early learning program
- 3) Partnerships with families and the community
- 4) Leadership and management

Keystone STARS is voluntary and practitioner driven. STARS provides support to child care practitioners to assist them in improving the quality of their program.

Is Keystone STARS right for you?



Qualifications

- ☆ Certified or registered by the Department of Public Welfare

Benefits

- ☆ Identifies you as a leader and advocate for early childhood
- ☆ Demonstrates your commitment to high quality early childhood education
- ☆ Access to a Keystone STARS Specialist who will guide you through the process
- ☆ Eligible to receive FREE targeted technical assistance to help you meet the Performance Standards
- ☆ Receive priority for TEACH Scholarships
- ☆ Access to low cost professional development opportunities
- ☆ Access to resources and grants
- ☆ Ability to use your STAR as a marketing tool with families to help them identify quality early education programs
- ☆ Eligible for preferred referrals by child care resource and referral agencies
- ☆ Use STARS as a path to Accreditation



Are you right for Keystone STARS?



Expectations

ARE YOU...

- ☆ Committed to providing a quality program by meeting State Standards for children birth–12 yrs?
- ☆ Open to independent observation of your program?
- ☆ Committed to incorporating strong business principles that enhance fiscal performance?
- ☆ Ready to champion professional growth and development by encouraging staff to attain higher levels of education?
- ☆ Ready to be active in your community as an advocate and committed to engaging families in your program?
- ☆ Committed to implementing the PA Early Learning Standards for children in your program?
- ☆ Committed to continuous evaluation and planning that will move you through the STAR levels?
- ☆ Committed to working with your Specialist and communicating on a regular basis?