



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.

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.

For more information on your program or other star rated programs visit 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

