



STARS NEWS



STARS for KIDS NOW Exciting News

The STARS data system is scheduled for launch later this fall! Our Web site is up and running!

Please visit us at www.starsforkidsnow.com.

You will find information for both parents and providers. Parents will be able to get valuable information on the STARS program and what quality early care and education means for their children. Providers can find helpful assistance on the STARS Interim Report, parent brochures, STARS level specific cards to share with parents and much more.

There is also the capability to search for a STARS rated facility by county.

STARS for KIDS NOW Interim Report

Be sure to view our updated Interim Report PowerPoint. It provides helpful hints for completion of the STARS Interim Report.

You can find it at...

<http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dcc/starsforkidsnow.html> or at

<http://www.kentuckypartnership.org/Info/ecpro/stars/starsrcs.aspx>



MEET OUR NEW DIVISION DIRECTOR



Mary Beth Jackson began her career as an infant/toddler program coordinator for a faith-based early care and education center. She has served in an assistant director and director capacity in an early care and education setting as well. Another of Jackson's passions is educating and training field staff on various topics involving early childhood development. She has been an independent trainer for six years. She has also taught at the university level as a visiting instructor for prenatal and infant development.

In 2003, Jackson came to state government to further her career goals to help young children in Kentucky. As an Early Childhood Mental Health Program Administrator, she went through the process of developing a state program, monitoring field staff, keeping abreast of current best practice and maintaining well-trained staff to carry out the mission of the program. Her role as the Early Childhood Promotion Section Supervisor allowed her to expand her knowledge base and strategize numerous ways to attain goals in the Healthy Start in Child Care, Early Childhood Mental Health and HANDS programs.

In the recent years, Jackson has helped bring money into the state from the federal level by coordinating and assisting in grant writing for perinatal depression, early childhood comprehensive systems (SECCS) and early childhood systems of care grants (KY SEED). Jackson has three children: Logan, Emily and Lauren.



A STAR IS BORN



We are pleased to announce the birth of another STARS baby....

Lori Bone, a rater for the North region and her husband, David, have welcomed the arrival of their first child. Harper Avery was born in Lexington at 5:21 p.m. on May 28, 2009. She weighed 6 lbs., 14 oz. and was 19.5 inches long.



MEET OUR NEW PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Brittany Barber is a graduate from Kentucky State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Child Development and Family Relation. After graduation, she served as a toddler teacher and a director of a child development center in Lexington.

Brittany has been married for one year and has a beautiful baby girl, Mia LeAnne, who was born on Jan. 5, 2009. Brittany enjoys shopping, playing with her baby and reading books in her free time.



ATTENTION ALL PARENTS



5 Steps to Choosing Quality Childcare...

- 1) **Start Early**
Start looking as far in advance as you can. No matter what type of care you are considering.
- 2) **Make a Call**
Begin your search by calling your local experts - your child care resource and referral (CCR&R) center. CCR&Rs can give you the facts about child care, and a list of child care options in your area that may meet your needs.
- 3) **Visit and Ask Questions**
Make sure you visit the child care options you are considering. Find out about key indicators of quality.
- 4) **Make a Choice**
Think about what you saw at each visit, and make the best choice for your child and family.
- 5) **Stay Involved**
The work isn't over when you find good care for your child. You and your child's caregiver are partners now.

More from "5 Steps to Choosing Quality Child Care" can be found at http://www.childcareaware.org/en/child_care_101/5steps.php



HELPFUL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- ★ For questions about certificates, scheduling a rating visit, assistance with the Interim Report or incentive payments, please call the Division of Child Care at (502) 564-2524, or e-mail us at STARS@ky.gov. (Please be aware that this is neither a secure e-mail address nor an outgoing email account. A response will be sent from a cabinet employee or a designee. Also, please do not send information such as personal identifying information (PII) or protected health information (PHI) via this e-mail. Thank you!)
- ★ To request technical assistance, please contact your STARS Quality Coordinator at (800) 956-8950.
- ★ The Division of Child Care's Web site is: <http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dcc/>
- ★ The Kentucky Partnership for Early childhood Services' Web site is: <http://www.kentuckypartnership.org/>
- ★ Visit us at www.starsforkidsnow.com

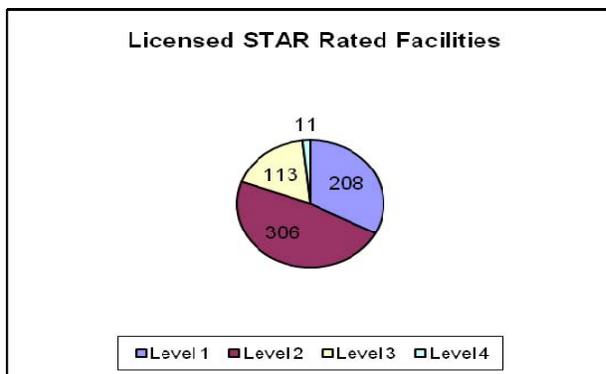
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Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department for Community Based Services
Division of Child Care
 275 E. Main St., 3C-F
 Frankfort, KY 40621



STAR RATED FACILITIES



The numbers of STAR-rated facilities represent a point in time of unduplicated facilities on Sept. 1, 2009.