



CONTACT US

Email questions or concerns to

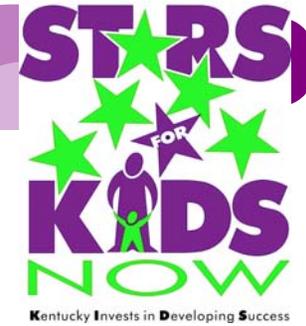
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DIVISION OF CHILD CARE

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Looking for quality
child care?



Look for the STARS!



WHAT IS STARS FOR KIDS NOW?

STARS for KIDS NOW is Kentucky's voluntary quality rating system for Licensed Type I, Type II and Certified Family Child Care Homes. Ratings are from one to four STARS.

STARS for KIDS Now is part of Kentucky's Early Childhood Initiative, KIDS NOW.



MUST ALL PROGRAMS BE STAR RATED?

No...STARS for KIDS NOW is a voluntary program, but there are regulatory requirements.

You can find the regulations at...

Licensed Type I Facilities:

www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/922/002/170.htm

Licensed Type II and Certified Homes:

www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/922/002/210.htm



WHAT MAKES A RATING?

To earn a STARS rating, a program must meet the STARS standards for the desired STARS Level and attain the ERS score required for that level.



WHAT DO I ASK?

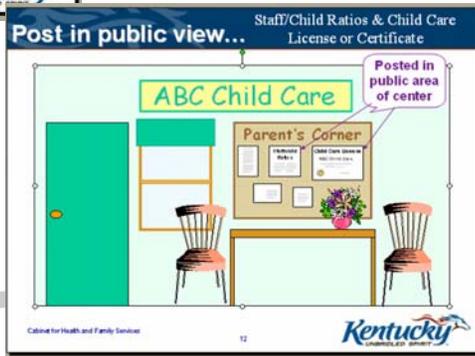
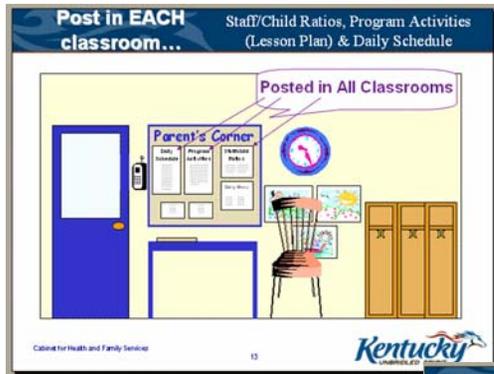
Here is a list of sample questions to ask potential child care providers...

- Is the caregiver trained and experienced?
- What special training or credentials does the caregiver have?
- How does the program encourage further training for its child care providers?
- Can I visit my child's class at any time?
- Do you welcome parent involvement? If so, how do you do so?
- What is your guidance policy and do you have that in written form?
- Is there a balance of planned activities?
- How long has the caregiver been at the center?
- Will my child stay with the same caregiver at least one year?
- Is your program accredited? If so, by whom?
- Is your program STAR rated? If so, at what level?

EVERYDAY IN A CHILD'S LIFE MAKES A DIFFERENCE, SO CHOOSE CHILD CARE CAREFULLY!



WHAT DO I LOOK FOR?



ASK TO TAKE A TOUR OF THE FACILITY...

Be sure to ask yourself...

- Do the children seem happy and involved?
- Is the caregiver warm, friendly, calm, and patient with them?
- Can children make choices and do things for themselves?
- Are the toys right for your child's age? Are they easy for the children to reach?
- Does the caregiver listen to the children when they talk?
- Is the facility or home, clean, well-lit, cheerful and bright?



LOOK CLOSELY AND TRUST YOURSELF!

WHAT INDICATES QUALITY?

Indicators of quality

- Child to Caregiver Ratios
- Program Curriculum
- Child Care Staff Training
- Program Regulatory Compliance
- Personnel Policies



STARS for KIDS NOW Standards Requirements are based on these indicators!

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES QUALITY MAKE?

- Better parent-child relationships
- Greater thinking skills
- Better attention skills
- Enhanced academic performance
- Better relationships with peers
- Greater chance for finishing school and attending college

HOW DOES A STARS RATING INDICATE QUALITY?

STAR Standards...for ALL STAR levels

- Parents can participate in family involvement activities
- All STAR levels have measurable quality indicators above the state licensing minimums.
- Child care program owner/director has completed an evaluation of the program using a nationally standardized tool, the Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) (by Harms, Cryer and Clifford)
- Center/Program develops annual improvement plan based on previous ERS score
- Child Care staff is offered opportunity to participate in Kentucky's Early Childhood Development Scholarship to further their education



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STAR LEVELS??

ONE STAR



One STAR centers and family child care homes are showing their commitment to quality by entering the STARS for KIDS NOW program.

- Staff are required to participate in an in-house STARS Overview which covers licensing regulations, STARS standards, Environment Rating Scales (ERS), and the KY Early Childhood Development Scholarship Program
- The facility has a posted plan of program activities (lesson plan) as well as a posted daily schedule
- The facility conducts at least one family involvement activity annually.
- The facility must meet current licensing standards for training and staff to child ratios
- Staff is to create and implement an annual staff development plan
- Licensed Type II and Certified homes are required to have written program policies and a parent/provider agreement

TWO STAR



Two STAR centers and family child care homes must meet the requirements for Level 1 as well as...

- Conduct one additional family involvement activity, and a written plan for family involvement
- The facility has completed all applicable ERS and has received an average score of 3 on a scale of 1-7
- The facility has developed a written ERS improvement plan
- Licensed Type I program staff have a written staff evaluation annually
- Licensed Type I training requirements increase : Staff will have a total of 15 hours of training annually; director will have a total of 18 hours of training annually
- Licensed Type II : Director and staff will have a total of 15 hours of training annually
- Certified Homes: Providers will have a total of 9 hours of training annually
- Licensed Type II and Certified Homes are required to maintain a financial program record-keeping system

THREE STAR



Three STAR centers and family child care homes must meet the requirements for Levels 1 and 2 as well as...

- Conduct one additional family involvement activity (Total of 3)
- Staff to child ratios are lower than state required licensing ratios for all age groups
- The facility has completed all applicable ERS and has received an average score of 4.5 on a scale of 1-7
- Licensed Type I must collect parent feedback annually
- Licensed Type II and Certified Homes must score at least a 5 on ERS for indicator #24 "Use of T.V." Provider limits use of TV to programs regarded as good for children and no more than 2 hours a day
- Licensed Type I have 50% of staff have Commonwealth Child Care Credential or higher, and 50% of staff working with children have current CPR/First Aid training
- Licensed Type I Directors have a total of 24 hours of training annually
- Licensed Type I staff receive a minimum of 6 paid holidays per year and 1 week paid leave time after one year
- Licensed Type II and Certified Homes provide parents with written daily report for children 2 and under, as well as a parent handbook which contain program's policies

FOUR STAR



Four STAR centers and family child care homes must meet the requirements for Levels 1, 2 and 3 as well as...

- Conduct one additional family involvement activity (Total of 4)
- Ratios are based on accreditation source
- Licensed Type II and Certified Homes have completed applicable ERS and has received an average score of 5.5 on a scale of 1-7
- Licensed Type I the facilities have completed all applicable ERS and has received an average score of 6 on a scale of 1-7
- All types of care are accredited by an organization approved by Kentucky's Early Childhood Authority
- Licensed Type I has a minimum of one staff with a CDA or higher in each classroom during all hours of operation; Director must meet accrediting organization standards, and have the KY Director's Credential
- Licensed Type II and Certified homes providers have KY Director's credential and CDA or higher; director must also be a member of an early childhood professional organization
- Licensed Type II staff has a total of 21 hours of training annually
- Possible for programs to receive a rating of Level 4 Enhanced by Licensed Type I programs offering health insurance and pay a minimum of 50% of single plan for full time employees. Licensed Type II and Certified Homes receive an average score on ERS above 5.5 on a scale of 1-7