

## How to find a Keystone STARS program

Thousands of early learning programs across Pennsylvania are participating in Keystone STARS, such as:

- Child care centers
- Child care group homes
- Family child care homes
- Head Start programs
- Preschool programs

Here are some ways to find a Keystone STARS program near you:

- Visit [www.papromiseforchildren.com](http://www.papromiseforchildren.com)
- Visit COMPASS at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us)
- Call 1-877-4-PA-KIDS (1-877-472-5437)
- Contact your local Child Care Information Services (CCIS) agency.

*Keystone STARS is made possible by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare*

## Count the STARS!

As programs move up the STARS ladder, they meet higher quality standards. For example:

### Teacher requirements increase:

- ★ At STAR 2, half of lead teachers have an Associate's degree in early childhood education.
- ★ At STAR 3, all lead teachers have at least an Associate's degree.
- ★ At STAR 4, half of lead teachers have a Bachelor's degree; the rest have an Associate's degree.

### Classroom quality increases:

- ★ At STAR 1, programs have the PA Early Learning Standards on hand.
- ★ At STAR 2, programs **also** use a standardized tool (Environment Rating Scale - ERS) to evaluate and improve their classroom and learning activities.
- ★ At STAR 3 and 4, programs **also** receive an independent evaluation using the ERS tool.

### Family communication increases:

- ★ At STAR 1, families meet with the teacher when the child enrolls.
- ★ At STAR 2, teachers **also** provide daily updates on the child's activities and hold one teacher conference each year.
- ★ At STAR 3 & 4, teachers **also** hold a second teacher conference each year.

To learn more, visit [www.papromiseforchildren.com](http://www.papromiseforchildren.com).

# Looking for quality child care?



## Reach for the STARS!



**Pennsylvania's Promise for Children**  
Because every child is Pennsylvania's future.  
[www.papromiseforchildren.com](http://www.papromiseforchildren.com)

# Where children spend their day can affect their learning for life!

When you choose a quality child care/early learning or afterschool program, your child:

- is safe while you are at school or work;
- will be encouraged to explore new things;
- will learn important academic skills like language and numbers, but also how to play well with others, follow directions, and practice self-discipline; and
- is more likely to enter kindergarten prepared, do better in school, graduate high school and attend college.



## Choose quality child care/early learning for your child through Keystone STARS!

Choosing a child care program is a big decision. The teachers, classmates, and learning activities will help shape what your child will become. Finding a program that is the right fit for your child will also prepare him/her for success in school and in life.

### Keystone STARS can help.

Child care, Head Start and preschool programs that participate in Keystone STARS are making a commitment to provide a quality education to your child. Programs earn a STAR 1 to STAR 4 rating by meeting quality standards for:

- **Teacher qualifications:** Early childhood teachers have the education and knowledge to work with young children.
- **Classroom and learning activities:** The program has a variety of materials and activities for each age level that makes it possible for children to learn something new every day!
- **Working with families:** The program treats families as a partner in their children's growth and development, and helps families access other community resources that they may need like food assistance through WIC or health insurance through CHIP.
- **Management:** A quality program has to have sound business practices to ensure your child's safety and learning.

**Count the STARS.** The higher the STAR level, the higher the quality.

**When looking for a child care or afterschool program for your child, ask if they participate in Keystone STARS.**

For more information, visit [www.papromiseforchildren.com](http://www.papromiseforchildren.com), COMPASS at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us), or call 1-877-4-PA-KIDS (1-877-472-5437).

