

QUALITYstarsNY:

Ready for Kindergarten, Ready for College

A Campaign by Winning Beginning NY and Public Policy and Education Fund of NY

WHY QUALITY MATTERS: Key to a Winning Beginning

Benefits of QUALITYstarsNY:

- Gives parents information to help them choose the best care for their children
- Sets clear standards and establishes a data system to insure accountability
- Ensures tax dollars are being invested in programs that work
- Creates universal system to assess, improve and communicate the quality of the state's early childhood programs
- Provides struggling programs with a roadmap and access to support and resources to ensure improvement

What is QUALITYstarsNY?

QUALITYstarsNY is a comprehensive initiative to ensure that our young children - the 1.5 million New Yorkers under age six - have the opportunity for high quality early learning experiences.

Quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS) are designed to evaluate program quality based on universal standards for early childhood settings; communicate program quality to families by assigning them to "star ratings" similar to those used in other consumer ratings; and help programs continually improve quality through targeted supports.

Impact for Families. Every day, more than **1.5 million New York State children under age six** are cared for by someone other than a parent. Choosing a quality early care and learning program is one of the most important decisions a family can make. Research tells us that:

- Children who have high quality early childhood experiences have better social, language, attention, thinking and mathematical skills.
- Fewer behavioral issues occur with children who have had higher quality child care.
- Children develop best when they have stimulating activities that are right for their age and their development.
- Adult to child ratios matter in high quality early care and learning programs.
- Education that relates to child development and early childhood affects the quality of care provided.
- High quality child care includes strong family engagement practices.
- High quality child care prepares children for school and helps them succeed.
- The most important part of high quality early care and learning is a trusting relationship with a warm, caring adult.

TO GIVE EVERY CHILD A WINNING BEGINNING, NEW YORK MUST COMMIT TO HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS THROUGH FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF QUALITYstarsNY, A STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF QUALITY ASSURANCE.



**PUBLIC POLICY AND
EDUCATION FUND** OF NEW YORK

Winning Beginning NY
an early care and learning coalition

