

# 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:

- Provides programs with a roadmap and access to support and resources to insure improvement
- Recognizes programs for their strengths while helping them improve where needed
- Provides financial incentives and supports to individual professionals as well as programs
- Integral to a quality rating and improvement system is a comprehensive and coordinated professional development system which:
  - benefits professionals in all settings
  - responds to the needs of professionals at all levels, from entry-level assistance to multi-site administrators

#### 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 Professionals.** In recent years, research has shown critical brain development and social skills develop before age five, making early care and learning a vital part of a child's education. If we want our children to grow up to compete in a global economy, we must start by investing in the workforce that cares for and educates our youngest children. Every day, more than 1.5 million New York State children under age five are cared for by someone other than a parent.

- The most important part of high quality early care and learning is a trusting relationship with a warm, caring adult.
- Education that relates to child development and early childhood affects the quality of care provided.

**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

