



## All About QUALITYstarsNY

### What is QUALITYstarsNY?

QUALITYstarsNY is New York State's voluntary 5-Star Quality Rating and Improvement System for early childhood programs. The goal of QUALITYstarsNY is to ensure children and families have access to excellent early learning opportunities by providing individualized, comprehensive support to early childhood programs – at no cost to participants. All types of regulated early childhood programs that serve children from birth through age five are eligible to participate in QUALITYstarsNY, including child care centers, family/group child care, pre-k in both centers and schools, and Head Start/Early Head Start programs. To mitigate the achievement gap experienced among the most vulnerable families, QUALITYstarsNY prioritizes enrollment for programs in high-need communities.

### How It Works

Continuous quality improvement is the core focus of QUALITYstarsNY and the support we provide to early childhood programs. When programs join, they are partnered with a dedicated Quality Improvement Specialist (QI Specialist) with expertise in early childhood education and program administration, who advises them throughout their participation. Programs are assessed and assigned a rating on a 5-Star scale based on a set of research-based quality Standards that examine everything from a program's learning environment to the qualifications and experiences of its teaching staff and administrators. A rating of 4 or 5 Stars indicates an exceptional level of program quality. Programs review and reflect upon their rating results and work with their QI Specialist to build a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP).

QUALITYstarsNY supports programs with a full complement of resources, such as materials and furnishings for the classroom and scholarships for staff to earn necessary degrees or credentials. Progress is tracked regularly, and programs are re-evaluated every 18 months to three years to earn a new Star Rating. In this way, programs are able to embark on a path of continuous quality improvement and are supported in achieving their goals for as long as they choose to participate in QUALITYstarsNY.

### What We Know

Research shows that children who attend high-quality early learning programs do better in school and throughout life. QUALITYstarsNY's model for supporting high-quality programming has been proven effective in increasing and sustaining program quality. Among programs recently re-rated, 70 percent increased their star rating or sustained a high quality rating of 3-5 Stars.

### Where We Are Today

QUALITYstarsNY currently supports nearly 900 early childhood programs across all ten economic development regions of New York State, which combined serve more than 55,000 children and staff 10,000 early childhood professionals. As resources become available, QUALITYstarsNY continues to expand participation to ensure more of New York's children and families have access to high-quality early learning opportunities.

For more information, please visit [qualitystarsny.org](http://qualitystarsny.org) or email [support@qualitystarsny.org](mailto:support@qualitystarsny.org) with any questions.