

# What our Participants Say About QUALITYstarsNY

<sup>66</sup> QUALITYstarsNY is a comprehensive, supportive strength! While the tenet behind which I opened a day care was to ultimately reduce the risk of adverse childhood experiences and give each child the nurturing, healthy and supportive foundation they are deserving of, I realized I could not do it alone. I needed support and QUALITYstarsNY was there. They joined hands with our program and provided needed professional development and appropriate furnishings and related supplies. This has enriched the lives of the children in our care, fostering independence and creativity. <sup>27</sup>

## **Sabine Dalce**

On-site Provider, Philippians 2:5 Day Care, Inc. | Long Island, NY

We have been part of QUALITYstarsNY for three fantastic years. The support we receive from our Quality Improvement Specialist is nothing short of spectacular! She is our mentor and sometimes it feels like our biggest cheerleader. We are so thankful to be a part of this phenomenal program!

**Sherry Phillips**President, A Leap In Learning | Hamburg, NY

"QUALITYstarsNY has provided me with education and tools that have greatly improved the way I teach and provide daily care to my daycare children. I live in an area with few resources. QUALITYstarsNY has empowered my daycare staff to provide children with education and life skills that I would not have been able to obtain otherwise. I cannot adequately express how grateful I am to QUALITYstarsNY for what they have provided for myself and the children that attend my daycare."

### **Christine Shantie**

Owner, Chris' Group Family Daycare | Dickenson Center, NY

I must confess that this program has empowered me beyond my expectations. As a home-based day care operator, I had no kind of support from anyone. QUALITYstarsNY has given me the leverage to see myself not only as a professional who is knowledgeable in providing care to children while parents are at work, but as a competitive educator with well-trained employees through the numerous resources they offer. Without this support system, I would be lost with all the children in my care.

## **Getty Njoku**

Family Child Care Provider, Island Sunshines | Long Island, NY

"QUALITYstarsNY is just amazing! In 2012 we were so excited to be participants in this program that was designed to offer resources to enhance early childhood programs. It then became our 'everything', in the way we conduct our program. QUALITYstarsNY is our culture for early learning programs because it provides us with Standards and opportunities to maintain a quality facility. The impact on our program is tremendous. I could go on and on about QUALITYstarsNY and how important it is to early childhood programs, but please allow me to say the Quality Improvement Specialists are so amazing! Their knowledge, patience, empathy and love for early childhood and QUALITYstarsNY definitely makes the agency a success. QUALITYstarsNY, thank you for all that you do!"

#### **Jackie Prather**

Director, Plattsburgh YMCA Bright Beginnings | Plattsburgh, NY

"I am proud to have participated in Start with Stars and transitioned into QUALITYstarsNY. The support of my Quality Improvement Specialist and access to high quality materials helped me to create my beautiful infant center/area! Through QUALITYstarsNY, my program has also worked with a coaching team that provides professional support and educational tools that will continue to benefit the children I serve both now and in the future. I'm grateful to continue my participation in this wonderful program."

## **Lisa Chambers**

Family Child Care Provider, Lisa's Learn And Play, Inc | Buffalo, NY

We have always shared the vision of QUALITYstarsNY for providing the highest quality programming for young children, but we initially lacked the resources to provide a fully-equipped learning environment and more focused training topics for our program. Through our participation in QUALITYstarsNY over the past few years, we have been able to create a more intuitive classroom learning environment and extensively-trained, long-standing teaching staff, which have significantly improved our ability to provide the highest quality care and programming for our community. "

## **Rose Blanchard**

Director, Lil Early Childhood and Enrichment Program | Saranac Lake, NY

We've been fortunate to be part of QUALITYstarsNY since 2017. QUALITYstarsNY helps our program with funding for training opportunities, including funding for one of our teaching assistants to get her CDA. We have also been able to get a beautiful sandbox, height appropriate chairs for the variety of preschooler sizes, and a 'cozy nook' for our classroom through QUALITYstarsNY. These items have helped to enrich the education and experiences that we provide to the children in our care. The Quality Improvement Specialists are knowledgeable resources who not only answer questions and give insight when it is needed, but have been able to offer new suggestions and approaches, and help to ensure our program not only meets the quality Standards, but exceeds them.

# **Kendra Miller**

Director, Chazy Afterschool Program Preschool | Chazy, NY

"Of all the programs we participate in, QUALITYstarsNY is one of my favorites. It's the one I talk first about. So why I do love QUALITYstarsNY?

- It's the connections the program has for me. The Standards are meaningful—it's not just a bunch of things to do, there is reason behind it. It's where I want us to be as professional educators.
- I adore my Quality Improvement Specialist. She gets me—she understands where I am coming from and is always reassuring. She is a bonus to QUALITYstarsNY and our centers.
- It's the ability QUALITYstarsNY has had over the many years to adapt, work with us, and change to meet a common goal.
- It's the purpose of QUALITYstarsNY. QUALITYstarsNY takes early care seriously as a profession.
- It's the connection the teachers have with QUALITYstarsNY—they know they need to keep up with The Aspire Registry to be professional, they know our Specialist, they know the expectations.
- It's the opportunity for professional development for the team. QUALITYstarsNY offers so many trainings, workshops, and conferences.
- It's the commitment QUALITYstarsNY has made to us, to me and to my team.

## **Nancy Johnson**

Director, YWCA of Schenectady | Schenectady, NY