



## Congratulations!!

Your child is enrolled, or you may be considering enrolling your child, in a learning and development program whose level of quality exceeds Ohio's child care licensing standards.

High quality learning and development program settings are important because early experiences last a lifetime. Your child has 1,892 days from the day they are born until they enter kindergarten. What happens on this journey lays the foundation for success in school and life.

A Step Up To Quality **Four-Star** rated program means that your child is in a program that meets all requirements for a Three Star program and has chosen to exceed these requirements. Below are some of the ways a Step Up To Quality Rated program can provide increased quality at the Four Star level.

- **Lower staff/child ratios**  
Teachers have more time to support your child's individual development and learning. This is important because 90% of brain development occurs by the time your child is 6 years old.
- **The administrator and teachers have higher education qualifications.**  
The administrator and most teachers have a bachelor's or master's degree and many years experience working with young children. These qualifications benefit your child's development and learning.
- **The administrator and teachers complete more than 20 hours of specialized training every two years.**  
The administrator and teaching staff are committed to expanding their knowledge and skills to better support your child's development and learning.
- **Teachers use a written plan of activities that covers all areas of development.**  
The program develops a written, research-based lesson plan that provides opportunities for exploration and learning for your child.
- **The program builds relationships with families.**  
Families contribute to their child's education plan and share information about their child's progress toward jointly developed learning goals.
- **The program values input from families and the community.**  
Each year, the program communicates with families and neighborhood organizations about program goals and accomplishments.

For more information on your program or other star rated programs visit [www.odjfs.state.oh.us/cdc/query.asp](http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/cdc/query.asp)

To stay current with information regarding learning and development programs in your area and statewide, visit [www.earlychildhoodohio.org](http://www.earlychildhoodohio.org)

