



# A Guide to Pennsylvania's Keystone STARS Program for Play & Learn Families

Every Play & Learn Center is a participant in Pennsylvania's Keystone STARS program. Keystone STARS helps us improve the care and education we provide to your child. For child care programs, Keystone STARS builds on the health and safety requirements regulated by the Department of Public Welfare. As child care programs increase their quality and meet higher STAR levels, they receive supports so that they can continue to move up the quality ladder. Play & Learn has been participating in Keystone STARS since 2006. Keystone STARS helps us fulfill our mission of providing high quality early learning opportunities for your child.

## [What does this mean for you and your child?](#)

Our Centers' designations of Keystone STAR levels lets you know that your child is in a developmentally-appropriate and supportive environment. Your child will learn, play, grow and be equipped for success in school and in life. Because of state supports, we can improve our quality without drastically increasing cost to parents.

## [What does the STAR level designation mean?](#)

A **STAR 1** had to meet research-based standards for program quality. For example, a STAR 1 program must develop a parent handbook, hold a parent conference, and complete a self-assessment of the classroom and learning environment.

A **STAR 2** had to meet increased research-based standards for program quality. For example, at least half of lead teachers in STAR 2 centers or group child care homes must have an Associate's degree in early childhood education.

A **STAR 3** had to meet higher research-based standards for program quality. For example, all lead teachers in STAR 3 centers and group child care homes must have an Associate's degree in early childhood education.

A **STAR 4** had to meet greater research-based standards for program quality. For example, at least half of lead teachers in STAR 4 centers and group child care homes must have a Bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

We care about our children and want to provide them with the best early learning opportunities possible. Learn more about how you can share in supporting your child's learning experiences at home, and find out how to show your support for quality early education at [www.papromiseforchildren.com](http://www.papromiseforchildren.com).



Reaching higher for  
quality early learning

