



No decision could be more important than deciding whom to trust with your child's early care and education. The Kentucky All STARS program and this program are here to help you make the very best informed decision you can.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is early care and education so important?

Research shows that much of a child's future success is determined by the experience and care they receive before they enter kindergarten.

It's a period when a child's brain and cognitive skills are rapidly expanding and the basis for their future understanding of reading, math, science and comprehension is being built, along with essential character skills, social and emotional skills and even general motor skills.

How can I find quality early care and education for my child?

Look for Kentucky All STARS rated programs.

What is Kentucky All STARS?

Kentucky All STARS is Kentucky's early care and education quality rating and improvement system.

What kinds of programs fall under the Kentucky All STARS system?

Kentucky All STARS serves all early care and education programs — including childcare centers, Head Start, public preschools, and some certified home childcare programs — that receive public funding. In fact, to receive public funding, these programs must meet Kentucky All STARS' requirements.

How are Kentucky All STARS ratings determined?

The unified system is based on Kentucky's Early Childhood Standards and research-based indicators of quality. On a five-star scale, STARS level one is obtained by meeting regulatory requirements.

STARS level two is obtained by completing standards measuring things like classroom and instructional quality, staff qualifications and staff professional development.

STARS levels three expands upon Stars level 2 by including an environment observation by the Kentucky All STARS Program. Early care and education programs advance through Stars 3 - 5 based on additional assessment of such things as the program's Family and Community Engagement and Administrative and Leadership Practices.

So, 5-star is good and 1-star is bad?

Not at all. To become a Level 1 or 2 star-rated program, early care and education providers must meet a rigorous set of standards based on early care and education research and the Governor's Task Force on Early Childhood Development and Education's vision for school readiness.

Levels 3 -5 are additional degrees of recognition available to programs which may have expanded physical facilities, larger staff and other resources.

What else does Kentucky All STARS do?

Kentucky All STARS recognizes programs that have made a commitment to continuous quality improvement and provides programs with additional support including training, technical assistance and coaching to assist them in reaching the very highest levels of early care and education.

