



**Congratulations!!**

Your child is enrolled or you may be considering enrolling your child in an early care and education program whose level of quality exceeds Ohio's child care licensing standards.

High quality early care and education 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 their school and life success.

A Step Up To Quality **One Star** rated program means that your child is in a program with:

- **Lower group size in the infant room**  
This means the teachers have more time to support your baby's individual development and learning. This is important because 85% of brain development occurs by the time your child is three years old.
- **The administrator and at least one teacher have a credential and/or a degree in early childhood education.**  
This means that the administrator and teacher(s) have formal knowledge to support your child's development and learning. This is important because just like a doctor needs formal education, so do those working with young children. Working with young children is science - brain science.
- **The administrator, all lead teachers and assistant teachers complete 10 hours of specialized training annually.**  
This means that the administrator and teaching staff are committed to expanding their knowledge and skills to better support your child's development and learning. This ensures that early care and education professionals keep up to date with the ever changing knowledge base of their profession.
- **Provides annual performance evaluations, professional development planning, and at least one benefit (such as insurance, paid leave, tuition reimbursement etc.) to employees.**  
This means that the program is a place where employees are supported and treated professionally. This is important because good programs retain good teachers.
- **Teachers who are familiar with Ohio's Infant Toddler Guidelines, Ohio's Early Learning Content standards and K-12 Standards.**  
This means that your child is in a program that is aware that there are guidelines and standards that identify the experiences children should have at each milestone. This is important because this information assists teachers in supporting your child's development and learning.

Step Up To Quality programs are only eligible for a Star Rating if they have not had any serious risk licensing non-compliances at their last licensing visit. If this program were to have a serious risk non-compliance, their rating would be either suspended or removed based on the non-compliance.