What is Step Up To Quality?

- Voluntary quality rating system for ODJFS licensed centers
- Recognizes three progressively higher levels of program quality building on Ohio’s health and safety licensing requirements
- Provides supports and awards to assist programs in achieving and maintaining a star-rating
What are the Goals?

- Improve the quality of early care and education settings in order to support children’s optimal development and learning.

- Provide parents with an easy to use tool to assist them in selecting quality early care and education programs for their children.
History

1998: Oklahoma implements the first statewide Quality Rating System (now in more than 14 states)

1999-2000: In Ohio, a Public/Private Partnership including 60 stakeholders develops initial criteria

2003: Build Ohio identifies Step Up To Quality as a high priority – work begins on policies and procedures

2005: Pilot implementation begins in 9 counties

2006: Additional funding is secured and statewide implementation announced

2007: Statewide implementation moves forward
Partners

★ Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, Bureau of Child Care & Development

★ OCCRRA - Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association

★ Build Ohio

★ Ohio Department of Education, Office of Early Learning & School Readiness
How can a quality rating system support children’s development & learning?
- Clearly defines the research-based elements of quality
- Provides targeted supports and resources to improve program quality system-wide
- Informs parents and the public about the importance of quality programs
- Recognizes programs that achieve higher levels of quality
Program Eligibility

★ Currently, programs must be ODJFS licensed centers

★ Programs must not have received a letter of intent to revoke the child care license in the past 48 months
What is Emerging Stars?

- Emerging Stars is a program to help centers put systems in place to ensure compliance with the Serious Risk non-compliances.
- A strong foundation of compliance with health and safety is the critical base on which to build high quality.

What is a Star Rating?

- Star Rated programs have demonstrated compliance with the serious risk non-compliances.
- Three levels of quality above Ohio’s minimum licensing standards have been identified as Step 1, Step 2 and Step 3.
Benchmarks

- Ratio and Group Size
- Staff Education and Qualifications
- Specialized Training
- Administrative Practices
- Early Learning
Ratio and Group Size

Ratio and group size are reduced as programs move upward from licensing standards.

Alternative Pathway to meeting ratio requirements for Step 2 and Step 3 is available for programs:

- Programs that are Nationally Accredited by one of the accepted accrediting bodies:
  - NAEYC - NACCP
  - NAA - NECPA

  OR

- Achieve an overall average score of 5 on Environmental Rating Scales may meet ratios and group size requirements of the previous step.

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*Step Up to Quality*
Staff Education and Qualifications

★ Education qualifications exceed licensing requirements for administrator(s) lead teachers and assistant teachers

★ Indicators can be met by achieving Career Pathways Level 2 or 3 on the Ohio Professional Development Professional Career Pathways Model (www.ohpdnetwork.org)
Star Training

- **Specialized** – provides the support and knowledge to programs to assist in the implementation of the Early Learning benchmarks
- **Targeted** – to administrators and lead and assistant teachers
- **Approved** – by ODJFS specifically for Step Up To Quality
- **Relevant** – to administrators and teachers for the age group(s) and/or their job responsibilities
Training Progression

Step I
5 Hours

Step II
10 Hours

Step III
15 Hours

Implementation

Application

Awareness

Integrated Focus
Program Improvement

Expanded Focus/Classroom

Narrow Focus/Classroom

Core Knowledge Levels & Competencies

step up to quality
Specialized Training

★ A commitment to ongoing Professional Development is demonstrated through the completion of annual training

★ Training is assessed with the following criteria:
  ★ Date of hire
  ★ Position
  ★ Program level
Administrative Practices

★ Program Planning and Evaluation
  ★ Complete Program Administration Scale (PAS)

★ Human Resource Development
  ★ Complete Professional Development Plan for administrators, lead teachers and assistant teachers

★ Benefits and Compensation
  ★ Program offers 1, 2 or 3 benefits based on the program level
Early Learning

- Builds on the foundation of the Infant and Toddler Guidelines, Early Learning Content Standards, Ohio’s Early Learning Program Guidelines and K – 12 Program Guidelines

- Align curriculum and planning with age appropriate standards/guidelines and utilize development screenings

- Integrates ongoing child assessment utilizing classroom assessment tools and action plans
Supports

■ Technical Assistance
  - For Emerging Star Programs
  - Local Resource and Referral Staff
  - Step Up To Quality Licensing Specialists

■ T.E.A.C.H.
  - Star Rated programs are eligible for Scholarships

■ Quality Achievement Awards
  - Financial reward for achieving higher levels of quality above minimum licensing
    ▪ 25% of reward used for critical repair, classroom improvement and early learning resources
Keeping a Star-rating

- Maintain compliance with Benchmark Indicators
- Maintain compliance with identified Serious Risk
- See complete listing of Serious Risk Non-compliances at www.stepuptoquality.org
- Non-compliance can result in suspension or removal of star-rating
Child Care Resource & Referral

OCCRRA

- Manages web-based Professional Registry
- Manages T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Ohio scholarship and compensation program
- Manages and processes Quality Achievement Awards
- Works to develop and distribute marketing materials, coordinates and integrates efforts of specialists in the field
Child Care Resource & Referral

Local CCR&R agencies
★ Provide general information on SUTQ
★ Assist programs in securing approved training
★ Conduct environmental assessments for Emerging Stars
★ Provide technical assistance to Emerging Stars
Marketing Materials

Star Rated programs will receive:

- Step Up To Quality Banner
- Media Kit which contains letters for media and legislators, print materials for parents
- Recognition of 3 Star Centers at the Accreditation/SUTQ luncheon at the annual Early Care and Education Conference
Information

www.stepuptoquality.org

★ SUTQ Benchmarks and Indicators for each star rating
★ Guidance Document - detailed information on policies and procedures
★ Application Form
★ Quality Achievement Awards
★ Who to Call When – a listing of commonly asked questions, plus local and state contact information
★ Serious Risk Rules – complete listing
★ Early Learning Training
★ Evidence Binder Sample Forms
★ Parent Information
Thanks for Stepping Up!