

# What is Keystone STARS?

Keystone STARS is Pennsylvania's voluntary system of continuous quality improvement for regulated early care and education facilities. The STARS initiative, which stands for standards, training/professional development, assistance, resources and support is designed to recognize and reward early care and education providers who exceed state health and safety licensing requirements. Providers are awarded a STAR One, STAR Two, STAR Three or STAR Four quality rating based on their achievement of performance standards in the areas of their staff qualifications and professional development, early learning program, leadership, management and partnerships with family and community members. Star ratings reflect standards of quality that are research based and linked to improved outcomes for children in social and emotional development, learning skills and school readiness. Keystone STARS is a process with wonderful cash rewards at each star level.

For more information, contact:

Northwest Regional Key

1-800-260-2281 or

Clarion County's

Local Education and Resource Network

814-938-3302, ext. 204 or

[LEARN@jccap.org](mailto:LEARN@jccap.org).

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## Working for the Children of Jefferson County!



A project of  
Community Action, Inc.



# Jefferson County's Local Education and Resource Network

## Who We Are...

We are a dedicated group that cares about our children's early care, health and education. Our committee members represent area child care providers, social services agencies, health services, child care services, schools, businesses and faith-based organization. Our goal is to help improve our children's quality of life through family engagement and support, ensuring successful transitions into early learning and school settings and acting as a local resource on quality learning opportunities.



## What We Do...

We meet monthly to discuss issues and solutions for our children's early care, education and health. We are here to help families, as well as early care and education professionals, find positive and useful solutions to their needs.

## Join Us!

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month. For meeting details, please call 1-800-648-3381, ext. 204, locally at 814-938-3302, ext. 204 or email [LEARN@jccap.org](mailto:LEARN@jccap.org).

The LEARN project is part of a statewide initiative, created by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, under the guidance of the Office of Child Development to enhance community based solutions to improving the quality and increasing the capacity of child care services in Pennsylvania.

## What is Quality Child Care?

Quality child care consists of a safe, nurturing and healthy environment where children aged birth to 12 years can learn and grow. We are dedicated to educating families on the significance of quality care in a child's life. When children spend their early years in a productive and safe setting, their chance for future success increases.

## Importance of School Readiness

Because it is everyone's job to make sure our children are ready to enter school, we are committed to assisting early child care professionals and families in finding the tools necessary to help children succeed in school.



## Supporting Child Care Providers

We support child care providers through various quality improvement initiatives, including Keystone STARS (see back panel for more information). Providing quality child care is an essential goal for any child care facility no matter how big or small. All of Pennsylvania's children deserve the best possible early care and education!

**Choosing the right child care provider isn't easy. Before putting your child in care, visit each potential site.\***

## Ask the provider:

What are the hours of operation?

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Can you drop off your child anytime?

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What are the daily and weekly fees?

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What training and education does the staff have?

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How long has the staff been employed at the facility?

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## Look for:

- The provider's PA license or registration.
- A clean, safe and healthy indoor and outdoor environment with clean and well-maintained equipment and a variety of toys and learning materials such as books, puzzles, blocks or anything else that your child may find interesting and that will contribute to a child's growth and development.
- How the staff interacts with the children, the discipline methods used and if all children receive attention.

**For more information on selecting the right child care provider or on becoming a child care provider, contact Jefferson County's LEARN Team at 814-938-3302, ext. 204 or via email to [LEARN@jccap.org](mailto:LEARN@jccap.org).**