



# Ages and Stages

Early Learning and Child Development Center, LLC.



## Reach for the STARS!

### Where your child spends his day can affect his learning for life!

Choosing a child care program is a big decision. Finding a quality program that is the right fit for your child will help prepare him/her for success in school and in life.

Keystone STARS helps families find quality child care/ early learning and afterschool programs for their children.

Administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Keystone STARS is a voluntary program that awards a STAR 1 to STAR 4 to child care, Head Start, and select PA Pre-K Counts programs.

When you choose a Keystone STARS program, you know it meets quality standards for

- Teacher qualifications;
- Classroom and learning activities;
- Working with families; and
- Program management.

**Count the STARS.** The higher the STAR level, the higher the quality.

## What to expect at a STAR 2 program



- At least half of the lead teachers have an Associate's degree in early childhood education.
- Teachers hold a meeting with families when a child enrolls, provide daily updates on the child's activities and hold at least one teacher conference to share child's progress each year.
- Teachers assess children's development once a year, the first within 45 days of enrollment.
- Teachers use the PA Early Learning Standards to plan learning activities.
- Teachers use a standardized tool (Environment Rating Scale) to evaluate and improve their classroom setup and learning activities.
- Program offers activities to help smooth a child's transition to a new classroom or on to school.
- Staff receive at least two employee benefits, such as health insurance, which helps reduce staff turnover.
- Staff complete continuing education each year.