



# We have some great news for you!

## Learning & Growing CCC joins Keystone STARS and earns a STAR 1 rating!

Learning & Growing CCC is thrilled to announce that we are now participating in Pennsylvania's Keystone STARS program! Keystone STARS helps us improve the care and education we provide your child by building on the health and safety requirements regulated by the Department of Human Services. As child care programs like ours increase their quality and meet higher STAR levels, they receive supports so that they can continue to move up the quality ladder. Keystone STARS helps fulfill our mission of providing high quality early learning opportunities for your child.

### **What does this mean for you and your child?**

Our rating as a Keystone STAR 1 program lets you know that your child is in a developmentally appropriate and supportive environment. Your child will learn, play, grow and be equipped for success in school and in life. Because of state supports, we can improve our quality without drastically increasing costs to families.

### **What does our STAR 1 rating mean?**

A STAR 1 has to meet research-based standards for program quality. For example, a STAR 1 program must develop a family handbook, hold a family conference, and complete a self-assessment of the classroom and learning environment.

A STAR 2 has to meet increased research-based standards for program quality. For example, at least half of lead teachers in STAR 2 centers and group child care homes must have an Associate's degree in early childhood education.

A STAR 3 has to meet higher research-based standards for program quality. For example, all lead teachers in a STAR 3 centers and group child care homes must have an Associate's degree in early childhood education.

A STAR 4 has to meet greater research-based standards for program quality. For example, at least 50% of lead teachers in STAR 4 centers and group child care homes must have a Bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

Teachers will be continuing their education to enhance their knowledge of early learning standards. We will be purchasing new educational materials and equipment for our center. We also will be communicating more with parents about their child's development by doing assessments and holding parent/teacher conferences.

We care about our children and want to provide them with the best early learning opportunities possible. Learn more about how you can share in supporting your child's learning experiences at home, and find out how to show your support for quality early education at