



Northwest Regional Key

PA Early Learning Keys to Quality

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FOR RELEASE
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Lawrence County EARLY LEARNING CENTER RECEIVES *BRIGHT STAR* AWARD



L-R: Elana Como, NWRK Executive Director;
Eduviges Miller, Pre K Kids Learning Center Director;
Ron Miller, Pre K Kids Learning Center Business
Manager



L-R: Margo Morford, NWRK STARS Manager;
Eduviges Miller, Pre K Kids Learning Center
Director; Ron Miller, Pre K Kids Learning Center
Business Manager

LAWRENCE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA – Pre-K Kids Learning Center, Inc., a Keystone STARS early learning provider in Lawrence County, has been selected to receive the “*Bright Star*” Award for the 2nd quarter of the 2016-17 state fiscal year.

The award was presented at the facility on Friday, March 24, 2017 at 10:30am by Elana Como, Executive Director and Margo Morford, a STARS Specialist of the Northwest Regional Key. The award is sponsored by the Northwest Institute of Research and Clarion University of PA.

Eduviges and Ron Miller were nominated by Margo Morford, who is the STARS Specialist for Lawrence County at the Northwest Regional Key, and unanimously voted as our Q2 Bright STAR award recipient. The expansion of their program has helped them to create an age appropriate environment where the pillars mentioned can be fostered for each child's individual growth. The families are fortunate to have a quality program where their children are safe & secure within a spacious child centered environment with nurturing caring staff. They focus their program within the developmentally appropriate guidelines to help each child fulfill their potential. They are a Bright STAR in the New Castle community!!

NWRK and Clarion University congratulate Eduviges and Ron Miller at Pre-K Kids Learning Center, Inc., on a well-deserved Bright STAR Award.

The Bright Star award is a quality recognition program for Keystone STARS sites within the 19 counties of the Northwest Regional Key (NWRK). Early learning and school-age programs that demonstrate exemplars of quality are nominated for the award. The sign(s) of quality must align with one or more of the Ten Pillars of a Good Childhood for 2012-2022, as adopted by the Association for Childhood Education International (www.acei.org).

The 10 pillars are as follows:

- Pillar 1: Safe places to live and learn, with access to health care, adequate clothing, and nutritious food
- Pillar 2: Strong families and consistent, loving caregivers
- Pillar 3: Social interactions and friendships
- Pillar 4: Creative play and physical activity
- Pillar 5: Appreciation and stewardship of the natural environment
- Pillar 6: Creative expression through music, dance, drama, and the other arts
- Pillar 7: Education that develops the full capacities of the child—cognitive, physical, social, emotional, and ethical
- Pillar 8: Supportive, nurturing, child-friendly communities
- Pillar 9: Growing independence and decision-making
- Pillar 10: Children and young people participating in community life

When a pillar of quality is observed, NWRK staff and consultants submit a nomination in writing to NWIR Leadership. At the end of each quarter the nominations are reviewed by leadership, who vote for the site most deserving.

Pre-K Kids Learning Center, Inc., was nominated, by Margo Morford, a STARS Specialist for the facility, for meeting the following Pillars of a Good Childhood:

- Pillar 1: Safe places to live and learn, with access to health care, adequate clothing, and nutritious food,
- Pillar 4: Creative play and physical activity,
- Pillar 8: Supportive, nurturing, child-friendly communities

Keystone STARS is an initiative of the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) to improve, support and recognize the continuous quality improvement efforts of early learning programs in Pennsylvania. The Keystone STARS Performance Standards provide the foundation for the program. The Performance Standards are grouped into four levels: STAR 1, STAR 2, STAR 3, and STAR 4. Each level builds on the previous level and utilizes research-based best practices to promote quality early learning environments and positive child outcomes. The standards address staff qualifications and professional development, the early learning program, partnerships with family and community, and leadership and management.