

# THE CHILD CARE QUALITY RATING SYSTEM (QRS) ASSESSMENT



## Kentucky STARS for KIDS NOW

**QRS Profile**

**April 2010**



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Policy Research, Inc.



# Kentucky STARS for KIDS NOW

## QRS Profile

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**Prepared for:**

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**MATHEMATICA**  
Policy Research, Inc.



## Child Care Quality Rating System (QRS) Assessment Study

### PROFILE

<b>Site:</b>	<b>Kentucky</b>
<b>Program Name:</b>	<b>STARS for KIDS NOW</b>
<b>Respondents:</b>	<b>Mary Beth Jackson</b> <b>Phillip Smith</b> <b>Robin Herring</b> <b>Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services, Division of Child Care</b>
<b>Information Reviewed and Finalized:</b>	<b>March 18, 2010</b>

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## Kentucky – STARS for KIDS NOW

### Program Information

This section provides general information about the QRS including the location, numbers and types of programs participating in the QRS, funding amounts, funding sources and goals.

<b>Site name:</b>	Kentucky
<b>Program name:</b>	STARS for KIDS NOW
<b>Service area:</b>	Statewide
<b>Pilot:</b>	Yes, pilot completed.
<b>Pilot time frame:</b>	2001-2002
<b>Date full program launched:</b>	July 2002
<b>Voluntary:</b>	Yes
<b>Website:</b>	www.starsforkidsnow.com
<b>Eligible programs:</b>	Center-based programs (Type I programs); licensed family child care (Type II programs; in a residential setting with a maximum number of 12 children in care), certified family child care (maximum of 6 kids), Head Start/Early Head Start, publicly funded pre-K/comprehensive early childhood programs, and school-aged programs.
<b>Total numbers of programs participating:</b>	760
<b>Number of participating child care centers:</b>	644
<b>Number of participating family child care programs:</b>	116
<b>Number of other programs participating:</b>	N/A
<b>Percent of total programs enrolled in QRS:</b>	26%
<b>Percent of programs at each rating level:</b>	Level 1 = 33% Level 2 = 46% Level 3 = 19% Level 4 = 2%
<b>Additional details about programs in the QRS:</b>	N/A
<b>Goals:</b>	To increase the quality of child care for all children, to recognize and reward quality child care, to provide consumer awareness/guidance for families, to increase capacity for subsidy children in higher quality programs.
<b>Language from statute:</b>	<b>199.8943 Quality based child-care rating system – Kentucky Revised Statute</b> (1) The Early Childhood Development Authority shall, in consultation with child-care providers, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, and others, including

but not limited to child-care resource and referral agencies and family resource centers, develop a voluntary quality-based graduated child-care rating system for licensed child-care and certified family child-care homes based on, but not limited to:

- (a) Child to caregiver ratios;
- (b) Child-care staff training;
- (c) Program curriculum; and
- (d) Program regulatory compliance.

(2) The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to implement:

- (a) The voluntary quality-based graduated child-care rating system for child-care and certified family child-care homes developed under subsection (1) of this section;
- (b) Agency time frames of reviews for rating;
- (c) An appellate process under KRS Chapter 13B; and
- (d) The ability of providers to request reevaluation for rating.

**History:** Amended 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 99, sec. 195, effective June 20, 2005. -- Created 2000 Ky. Acts ch. 308, sec. 15, effective July 14, 2000.

## Rating Details

This section provides details about how the rating component is structured and the process that is used to rate programs.

<b>Rating structure:</b>	Building Blocks
<b>Number of levels:</b>	4 levels
<b>Length of time rating is valid:</b>	Level 1-valid for 1 year Level 2-valid for 2 years Level 3-valid for 3 years Level 4- valid for 4 years
<b>Rating process:</b>	<p>Programs apply to participate at a specific star level. Within 15 days of application, the applicant is contacted and agrees to a two (2) week time period in which the STARS rating visit will occur. During the visit, documentation is reviewed and the appropriate Environment Rating Scale is administered. After the visit, programs receive a quality rating certificate within 60 days.</p> <p>Programs at Star Levels 2, 3, and 4 have to submit an interim report in their non-rating years. The interim report focuses on updating documentation for all indicators.</p>
<b>Method of combining points:</b>	Programs must meet the Stars Standards for the Star level and the ERS score required for that level.
<b>Method used to assess programs for infants/toddlers:</b>	The Infant Toddler Environmental Rating Scale-Revised is used.

<b>Method used to assess programs for school-aged children:</b>	The School Aged Care Environment Rating Scale is used.
<b>Different process used to assess family child care:</b>	Yes. Family child care programs have a separate set of indicators.
<b>Different process used to assess Head Start/Early Head Start:</b>	No
<b>Different process used to assess accredited programs:</b>	
<b>Events that trigger re-rating:</b>	Change of location, non-submission of an Interim report, or change in ownership
<b>Appeal process:</b>	Yes. A service complaint can be made when a participant is dissatisfied with services rendered or request for an administrative hearing can be made regarding a negative action against a STAR rating.
<b>Availability of technical assistance for rating process:</b>	Yes
<b>Description of technical assistance for rating process:</b>	Technical assistance is voluntary and provided by a STAR Quality Coordinator prior to the rating visit. A final walk through is conducted prior to the rating visit. Technical assistance is also provided to assist with improvement of future environment rating results.
<b>Availability of technical assistance for preparatory process:</b>	Yes
<b>Description of technical assistance for preparatory process:</b>	Technical assistance is voluntary and provided by a STAR Quality Coordinator prior to the rating visit. A final walk through is conducted prior to the rating visit.

## Quality Indicators for Center-Based Programs

This section describes the indicators used in a QRS to assess the quality of center-based programs. The indicators are divided into the following categories: licensing compliance, ratio and group size, health and safety, curriculum, environment, child assessment, staff qualifications, family partnership, administration and management, cultural/linguistic diversity, accreditation, community involvement and provisions for children with special needs. A QRS may not have indicators in one or more of these categories, and the category labels used in the profile may differ from the site-specific category names used in a QRS.

<b>Number of site-specific indicator categories:</b>	5
<b>Site-specific names of categories used in the QRS:</b>	Ratios Curriculum Training Regulatory Compliance Personnel

## Licensing Compliance (centers)

Licensing requirements frequently serve as a minimal set of provisions to ensure that care and education environments are safe, healthy and provide for children's basic needs. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>.

<b>Licensing compliance included:</b>	Yes
<b>Licensing required for enrollment:</b>	Yes
<b>Licensing equivalent to the first level:</b>	No
<b>Licensing compliance referred to within:</b>	N/A (Kentucky Administrative Regulations)
<b>Source of evidence:</b>	A STARS Quality Coordinator verifies on-site for Level 1 and a STARS Rater verifies on-site for Levels 2, 3, and 4.
<b>Comments:</b>	Newly licensed providers must be licensed six months before they may participate in STARS.

## Ratio and Group Size (centers)

Ratio and group size requirements are frequently established in state licensing regulations. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>.

<b>Ratio and group size indicators included:</b>	Yes
<b>Description:</b>	<p>Level 1 and Level 2 are equivalent to licensing standards.</p> <p>Level 3:            Age 0-1 year, Ratio 1:4, Group Size 8            Age 1-2 years, Ratio 1:5, Group Size 10            Age 2-3 years, Ratio 1:8, Group Size 16            Age 3-4 years, Ratio 1:11, Group Size 22            Age 4-6 years, Ratio 1:12, Group Size 24            Age 6-12 years, Ratio 1:14, Group Size 28</p> <p>Level 4: National Association for the Education of Young Children staff/child ratios            Age 0-2 years, Ratio 1:4, Group Size 8            Age 2-3 years, Ratio 1:4-1:6, Group Size 8            Age 3 years, Ratio 1:10, Group Size 17            Age 4-5 years, Ratio 1:10, Group Size 20</p>
<b>Ratio and group size referred to within:</b>	Ratios
<b>Source of evidence:</b>	Observation

## Health and Safety (centers)

Provisions for health and safety are frequently established in state licensing regulations. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>. Health and safety indicators are also included in the Environment Rating Scales which are used in some QRSs.

<b>Health and safety indicators included:</b>	No
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## Curriculum (centers)

A curriculum is a written document that provides a plan for intentional activities and interactions in an early childhood program. Indicators described in this section refer to requirements for the use of particular curricula or to demonstration that certain features of curriculum are in place. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>.

<b>Curriculum indicators included:</b>	No
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## Environment (centers)

Indicators in this section refer to features of the classroom environment. Further details about Observational Measures included in the QRS are included in a section below. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>.

<b>Environment indicators included:</b>	Yes
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<b>Environment Rating Scales (ERS) included:</b>	Yes
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<b>Range of recognized ERS scores:</b>	3.0-6.0 or higher
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<b>Description:</b>	<p><b>Level 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Programs must agree to complete the Environmental Rating Scale at each applicable age level within 12 months, with no minimum score required. In the program's second year at Level 1, they must complete a written Environmental Rating Scale improvement plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Level 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Must achieve an overall average score of at least 3 on the environment assessment portion of the STARS rating visit, calculated based upon the total number of environment assessments conducted during the quality rating visit.</li> <li>-If the center achieves an overall average score of 3 on the environment assessment, they must develop a written plan for improved performance on subsequent environment assessments, and</li> </ul>
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obtain assistance from the cabinet or its designee upon request.  
-Must achieve and maintain an overall average score of at least 4 on the environment assessments by the fourth year of certification at a Level 2 quality rating.

**Level 3:**

-Achieve an overall average score of at least 4.5 on the environment assessment.

**Level 4:**

-Achieve an overall average score of at least 6 on the environment assessment.

**Additional indicators related to the environment (e.g., activities, interactions, specific features):**

At level 1, programs must have a planned program of activities and a daily schedule.

**Environment referred to within:**

Curriculum (Environment Rating Scale)

**Environment source of evidence:**

Observation

## Child Assessment (centers)

Indicators in this section refer to processes in place to assess, observe or monitor children's development on a regular basis. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>.

**Child assessment indicators included:**

No

## Staff Qualifications (centers)

Indicators in this section refer to specific educational or training requirements for staff. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>.

**Staff qualification indicators included:**

Yes

**Indicators for teachers include:**

Education, training

**Indicators for directors include:**

Education, training

**Directors qualifications related to administration and management**

Yes

**Description of administration and management qualifications:**

At Level 4, directors must have Kentucky Director's Credential. The Director's Credential is awarded to individuals who successfully complete 12 credit hours of instruction through one of seven accredited institutions of higher learning offering the Director's Credential Program

**Bachelors degree indicator for director:**

No

<b>Bachelors degree indicator for teacher:</b>	No
<b>Bachelors degree indicator for assistant teacher:</b>	No
<b>Description:</b>	<p><b><u>Level 1:</u></b>          -Create and implement individual staff development plans for all staff annually          -Introduction to the KY Early Childhood Development Scholarship program</p> <p><b><u>Level 2:</u></b>          - Center offers staff opportunity to participate in KY Early Childhood Development Scholarship Program, if eligible          - 15 clock hours annually of approved early care and education training          - <b>Director:</b> 18 clock hours annually of approved early care and education training</p> <p><b><u>Level 3:</u></b>          - <b>Staff:</b> 50% of teaching staff have entry level credential or higher and 50% of staff working with children have current CPR/First Aid training          - <b>Director:</b> 24 clock hours of training annually and CDA or Director Credential or Montessori Certificate or A.A. (or higher) in Early Childhood/Related degree          - For 75% of program hours, director or person on-site responsible for daily supervision of program and staff must have CDA or higher.</p> <p><b><u>Level 4:</u></b>          -<b>Staff:</b> Minimum of one CDA or higher in each classroom during all hours of operation          -<b>Director:</b> Meets approved national accrediting organization requirements and 24 clock hours of training annually and has a Kentucky Director's Credential</p>
<b>Staff qualifications referred to within:</b>	Training
<b>Staff qualifications source of evidence</b>	Documentation submitted, observation

## Family Partnership (centers)

Indicators in this section refer to activities and strategies to involve and engage families. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>.

<b>Family partnership indicators included:</b>	Yes
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<b>Description:</b>	<p><b>Level 1:</b> -At least one family involvement activity annually</p> <p><b>Level 2:</b> - At least 2 family involvement activity annually - A written plan for family involvement</p> <p><b>Level 3:</b> - At least 3 family involvement activity annually - Documented family feedback procedure used annually</p> <p><b>Level 4:</b> - At least 4 family involvement activity annually</p>
<b>Family partnership referred to within:</b>	Curriculum
<b>Family partnership source of evidence:</b>	Documentation submitted

## Administration and Management (centers)

Indicators in this section refer to features of the administration and management of the program. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>.

<b>Administration and management indicators included:</b>	Yes
<b>Description:</b>	<p><b>Level 2:</b> Program must have written standardized staff evaluations annually.</p> <p><b>Level 3:</b> Programs must offer a minimum of 6 days paid leave/year and minimum of 11 days paid leave time after 1 year.</p> <p><b>Level 4:</b> To qualify for Enhancement Award, health insurance must be made available, with the program paying no less than 50% of a single plan for full-time employees.</p>
<b>Administration and management referred to within:</b>	Personnel
<b>Administration and management source of evidence:</b>	Documentation submitted

## Cultural/Linguistic Diversity (centers)

Indicators in this section refer to provisions for responsiveness to cultural and linguistic diversity. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>. Cultural/Linguistic Diversity indicators are also included in the Environment Rating Scales which are used in some QRSs.

<b>Cultural/linguistic diversity indicators included:</b>	No
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## Accreditation (centers)

Indicators described in this section refer to accreditation by a national accrediting body. Accreditation is a process in which programs demonstrate that they meet standards set forth by the accrediting body. The standards are determined by the accrediting body. There is not a common set of standards used for early childhood program accreditation. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation, the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA), the National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs (NAC) and the Council on Accreditation (COA) are commonly included accreditation systems used in QRSs for center-based programs.

<b>Accreditation included:</b>	Yes
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<b>If yes, in what way:</b>	One criterion in highest rating
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## Community Involvement (centers)

Indicators described in this section refer to the type or frequency of involvement in the community. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>.

<b>Community involvement indicators included:</b>	No
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## Provisions for Children with Special Needs (centers)

Indicators described in this section refer to provisions for children with special needs and the extent to which programs meet standards for inclusion of children with disabilities or other limiting conditions. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>. Provisions for Children with Special Needs indicators are also included in the Environment Rating Scales which are used in some QRSs.

<b>Indicators that specify provisions for children with special needs included:</b>	No
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## Indicators for Family Child Care Programs

**(This section refers to both Type II Centers and Family Child Care Homes. If not otherwise specified, the indicator pertains to both.)**

This section describes the indicators used in a QRS to assess the quality of family child care programs. The indicators are divided into the following categories: licensing compliance, ratio and group size, health and safety,

curriculum, environment, child assessment, staff qualifications, family partnership, administration and management, cultural/linguistic diversity, accreditation, community involvement and provisions for children with special needs. A QRS may not have indicators in one or more of these categories, and these category labels may not be used in their QRS.

<b>Number of site-specific indicator categories:</b>	5
<b>Site-specific names of categories used in the QRS:</b>	Ratios Curriculum Training Business Practices Regulatory Compliance

### Licensing Compliance (family child care)

Licensing requirements frequently serve as a minimal set of provisions to ensure that care and education environments are safe, healthy and provide for children's basic needs. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>.

<b>Licensing compliance included:</b>	Yes
<b>Licensing required for enrollment:</b>	Yes
<b>Licensing equivalent to the first level:</b>	No
<b>Licensing compliance referred to within:</b>	N/A (Kentucky Administrative Regulations)
<b>Source of evidence:</b>	STARS Quality Coordinator verifies on-site for Level 1. STARS Rater verifies on-site for Levels 2, 3, and 4.
<b>Comments:</b>	Newly licensed or certified providers must be licensed or certified for six months before they may participate in STARS.

### Ratio (family child care)

Ratio and group size requirements are frequently established in state licensing regulations. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>.

<b>Ratio and group size indicators included:</b>	Yes
<b>Description:</b>	<b>Type II Centers</b>  Level 1 & 2: Age 0-1 year, ratio 1:5 Age 1 to 2 years, ratio 1:6 Age 2 to 3 years, ratio 1:10 Age 3 and older, ratio 1:12  Level 3 & 4: Age 0-1, ratio 1:4

Age 1-2, ratio 1:5  
 Age 2-3, ratio 1:8  
 Age 3 and older, ratio 1:12

#### **Certified Family Child Care**

Level 3:  
 -If caring for 6 or fewer children, no more than 3 infants unless an assistant is present.  
 -If caring for more than 6 children, no more than 3 under the age of 24 months unless an assistant is present. (Includes own and related children.)

Level 4:  
 Level 3 restrictions, and maximum capacity of 9. (May care for up to 3 own or related children in addition to 6 unrelated children).

**Ratio and group size referred to within:**

Ratios

**Source of evidence:**

Observation

**Comments:**

Caregiver to Child ratios must be posted prominently.

## Health and Safety (family child care)

Provisions for health and safety are frequently established in state licensing regulations. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>. Health and safety indicators are also included in the Environment Rating Scales which are used in some QRSs.

**Health and safety indicators included:**

No

## Curriculum (family child care)

A curriculum is a written document that provides a plan for intentional activities and interactions in an early childhood program. Indicators described in this section refer to requirements for the use of particular curricula or to demonstration that certain features of curriculum are in place. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>.

**Curriculum indicators included:**

No

## Environment (family child care)

Indicators in this section refer to features of the classroom environment. Further details about Observational Measures included in the QRS are included in a section below. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>.

<b>Environment indicators included:</b>	Yes
<b>Environment Rating Scales (ERS) included:</b>	Yes
<b>Range of recognized ERS Scores:</b>	3.0-5.5 or higher
<b>Description:</b>	<p><b>Level 1:</b> -Programs must agree to complete the family child care ERS at each applicable age level within 12 months, with no minimum score required. In the program's second year at Level 1, they must complete a written ERS improvement plan.</p> <p><b>Level 2:</b> -Must achieve an overall average score of at least 3 on the family child care ERS, calculated based upon the total number of environment assessments conducted during the quality rating visit -If the center achieves an overall average score of 3 on the family child care ERS, they must develop written plan for improved performance on subsequent environment assessments, and obtain assistance from the cabinet or its designee upon request -Must achieve and maintain an overall average score of at least 4 on the family child care ERS by the fourth year of certification at a Level 2 quality rating</p> <p><b>Level 3:</b> -Achieve an overall average score of at least 4.5 on the family child care ERS -Must score at least 5 on family child care ERS items related to use of TV.</p> <p><b>Level 4:</b> -Achieve an overall average score of at least 5.5 on the family child care ERS</p> <p>At level 3, programs must limit television indicated by a score of 5 on the ERS portion pertaining to use of television. Provider limits use of TV to programs and video games regarded as good for children (no more than 2 hrs/day). Activities are</p>
<b>Additional indicators related to the environment (e.g., activities, interactions, specific features):</b>	

provided as an alternative while TV is on.

At level 1, programs must have a planned program of activities and a daily schedule.

**Environment referred to within:** Curriculum

**Environment source of evidence:** Observation

## Child Assessment (family child care)

Indicators in this section refer to processes in place to assess, observe or monitor children's development on a regular basis. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>.

**Child assessment indicators included:** No

## Staff qualifications (family child care)

Indicators in this section refer to specific educational or training requirements for staff. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>.

**Staff qualification indicators included:** Yes

**Indicators for family child care providers include:** Education, training

**Family child care qualifications related to administration and management** Yes

**Administrative and management qualifications included in the indicators:** At Level 4, providers must have Kentucky Director's Credential. The Director's Credential is awarded to individuals who successfully complete 12 credit hours of instruction through one of seven accredited institutions of higher learning offering the Director's Credential Program.

**Bachelors degree indicator for family child care provider:** No

**Description:**

**Level 1:**

- Family child-care home provider must create and implement a written training plan
- Type II centers must create and implement written individual training plans for director and staff annually
- Introduction to the KY Early Childhood Development Scholarship program

**Level 2:**

**Certified Family Child Care Home**

- Ensure that at least 1 person on duty is certified in CPR/First Aid training
- Family child care home must complete 9 clock hours of approved early care and education

training

**Type II Center**

- Home offers staff opportunity to participate in KY ECD Scholarship Program, if eligible
- Type II center must have the director and each staff person annually complete 15 clock hours of approved early care and education training

**Level 3:**

**Certified family child-care home**

- Basic Orientation training for assistants
- 6 annual training hours for assistants
- Provider has a total of 18 clock hours of training annually or has entry level credential or higher and completes 9 clock hours of training annually
- By 4th year in STARS, provider must have CDA or higher.

**Type II center**

- Staff have a total of 18 clock hours of training annually or have entry level credential or higher and complete 15 clock hours of training annually
- Director has total of 21 clock hours training or has higher level of education and completes 18 clock hours of training annually
- By 4th year in STARS, director must have CDA or higher

**Level 4:**

**Certified family child-care home**

- Provider has received Director’s Credential and CDA, AA or higher in Early Childhood or a related degree

**Type II center**

- Staff have a total of 21 clock hours training annually or entry level credential or higher
- Director has Director’s Credential and CDA, AA (or higher) in Early-Childhood or (related) degree
- Be a member of an early childhood professional organization

**Staff qualifications referred to within:**

Training, Business Practices

**Staff qualifications source of evidence**

Documentation submitted

## Family Partnership (family child care)

Indicators in this section refer to activities and strategies to involve and engage families. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>.

<b>Family partnership indicators included:</b>	Yes
<b>Description:</b>	<p><b>Level 1:</b> -At least one family involvement activity annually</p> <p><b>Level 2:</b> - At least 2 family involvement activity annually - A written plan for family involvement</p> <p><b>Level 3:</b> - At least 3 family involvement activity annually - Documented family feedback procedure used annually -Provide families with written daily report for children age 2 and under 10. -Parents provided with handbook that contains program's policies</p> <p><b>Level 4:</b> - At least 4 family involvement activity annually</p>
<b>Family partnership referred to within:</b>	Business Practices
<b>Family partnership source of evidence:</b>	Documentation submitted

## Administration and Management (family child care)

Indicators in this section refer to features of the administration and management of the program. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>.

<b>Administration and management indicators included:</b>	Yes
<b>Description:</b>	<p><b>Level 1:</b> -Program must have written program policies including: fees, holidays, vacation, late fees, illness, hours of operation, who may pick up a child, and a plan for how daily information is shared with parents. -Programs must have a written parent/provider agreement</p> <p><b>Level 2:</b> -Programs must maintain a financial program/recordkeeping system.</p>
<b>Administration and management referred to within:</b>	Business Practices

<b>Administration and management source of evidence:</b>	Documentation submitted
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## Cultural/Linguistic Diversity (family child care)

Indicators in this section refer to provisions for responsiveness to cultural and linguistic diversity. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>. Cultural/Linguistic Diversity indicators are also included in the Environment Rating Scales which are used in some QRSs.

<b>Cultural/linguistic diversity indicators included:</b>	No
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## Accreditation (family child care)

Indicators described in this section refer to accreditation by a national accrediting body. Accreditation is a process in which programs demonstrate that they meet standards set forth by the accrediting body. The standards are determined by the accrediting body. There is not a common set of standards used for early childhood program accreditation. Accreditation by the National Association of Family Child Care is a commonly included accreditation used in QRSs for family child care programs.

<b>Accreditation included:</b>	Yes
<b>If yes, is accreditation:</b>	One criterion in highest rating

## Community Involvement (family child care)

Indicators described in this section refer to the type or frequency of involvement in the community. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>.

<b>Community involvement indicators included:</b>	No
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## Provisions for Children with Special Needs (family child care)

Indicators described in this section refer to provisions for children with special needs and the extent to which programs meet standards for inclusion of children with disabilities or other limiting conditions. All QRS quality indicators described in this profile are beyond those required by licensing. Details on the licensing requirements for a specific state can be found at: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>. Provisions for Children with Special Needs indicators are also included in the Environment Rating Scales which are used in some QRSs.

<b>Indicators that specify provisions for children with special needs included:</b>	No
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## Application Process

Information in this section describes specific features of the application process in the QRS.

<b>Requires self-assessment tool:</b>	No
<b>Availability of preparatory process:</b>	Yes

<b>Describe preparatory process:</b>	If requested, technical assistance is provided on-site by the STARS Quality Coordinator to prepare the provider for the STARS rating visit. The coordinator may review items, such as lesson plans, room arrangement, and materials to help the provider.
<b>Requires orientation:</b>	Yes
<b>Describe orientation :</b>	Stars overview provided by STARS Quality Coordinators. The director or owner must attend a Stars overview session. All staff must then complete the overview given by the director.
<b>Time from application to rating:</b>	STARS regulations require that providers receive their STARS rating certificates no later than sixty (60) days from the date of the STAR rating visit. Currently, the process is taking four months from receipt of application until approved rating.
<b>Can apply for particular rating:</b>	Yes
<b>Describe apply for particular rating:</b>	Applicants can seek 1, 2, 3, or 4 star rating. Appropriate documentation and ERS assessment must be submitted.

## Outreach

This section describes the strategies that a QRS uses to disseminate information to parents, providers/programs, and the public.

<b>Outreach to parents:</b>	Yes
<b>Method of outreach to parents:</b>	Website, parent cards, parent referrals, display booths in public venues, assistance provided to non-English speaking parents (as needed and in accordance with Cabinet for Health and Family Services policy)
<b>Outreach to providers:</b>	Yes
<b>Method of outreach to providers:</b>	Technical assistance outreach, website, newsletter mailing, information in languages other than English (as needed and in accordance with Cabinet for Health and Family Services policy)
<b>Outreach to public:</b>	Yes
<b>Method of outreach to public:</b>	Website
<b>Percent of budget dedicated to marketing:</b>	Kentucky is working on a marketing plan currently.

## Use of Observational Tools

The information in this section provides further detail about observational tools used in the QRS.

<b>Observational tools used:</b>	ECERS-R, ITERS-R, FDCRS, SACERS
<b>Describe how scores are used in the rating:</b>	<p>Level 2: Average score of 3.0 (must maintain an average score of 4.0 by 4th year and beyond)</p> <p>Level 3: Average score of 4.5</p> <p>Level 4: Average score of 6.0 for Type I license and score of 5.5 for Type II/certified</p> <p>Programs that are seeking a STAR level above Level 1 must complete an Environment Rating Scale assessment.</p>
<b>Frequency of observational assessment:</b>	<p>An assessment happens initially and then at every subsequent rating according to STAR level:</p> <p>Level 1-valid for 1 year</p> <p>Level 2-valid for 2 years</p> <p>Level 3-valid for 3 years</p> <p>Level 4- valid for 4 years</p>
<b>Method for choosing classrooms to observe:</b>	Classrooms are chosen by random selection.
<b>Percent of classrooms observed in child care centers:</b>	An environment assessment is completed during each rating visit for 33% of the total number of classrooms, including at least one classroom for each of the following age groups for which the center provides care: Infant, Toddler, Preschool, and School age.
<b>Training for observers:</b>	Training with Raters for procedures & Training with Anchors for ERS (Stars for Kids Now has 4 Anchors on staff for Environmental Rating Scale training).
<b>Initial reliability required:</b>	Observers must maintain an average of 85% on their last 3 interrater reliability scores.
<b>Ongoing reliability required:</b>	Observers must maintain an average of 85% and have reliability checked every 6th observation visit. Raters must maintain an average of 90% or higher every 10th visit.

## Improvement Process

This section provides information about the strategies used to provide or support quality improvement in the QRS.

<b>Training available that is linked to QRS:</b>	Yes
<b>Content of linked training:</b>	Varies
<b>Total duration of training:</b>	15 to 24 annual clock hours appropriate to Star level requirements
<b>Trainer approval process:</b>	Yes

<b>Target population for training:</b>	All providers
<b>Onsite assistance available that is linked to QRS:</b>	Yes
<b>Content of linked onsite assistance:</b>	Business practices, child assessment, environmental assessment, language and literacy, safety, social and emotional development, specific curriculum, support in navigating QRS
<b>Onsite assistance frequency</b>	Varies
<b>Length of onsite sessions</b>	Varies
<b>Total duration of onsite assistance:</b>	Varies
<b>Formal approval for onsite assistance provider:</b>	No
<b>Target population for onsite assistance:</b>	All providers

## Financial Incentives

A variety of strategies may be used to provide financial incentives to providers to participate in the QRS or to support quality improvement efforts. This section provides information about different financial incentives.

<b>Tiered reimbursement:</b>	Tiered reimbursement (referred to as Quality Incentive Award) is available based on the percentage of subsidy children served, the ages of these children, and the program's STAR level. (See attachment for rates)
<b>Quality award/bonus:</b>	Quality awards (referred to as Achievement Awards) are available based on a program's STAR Level and the number of children served. There are initial awards for all programs and annual awards for programs Level 3 & 4. (See attachment for rates)
<b>Startup award:</b>	No
<b>Scholarship:</b>	Kentucky Early Childhood Development Scholarship
<b>Wage enhancement</b>	No
<b>Retention bonus:</b>	No
<b>Improvement grants:</b>	No

## Administration Details

This section provides details about the QRS administration and funding.

<b>QRS lead :</b>	Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services Department for Community Based Services Division of Child Care
<b>QRS lead type:</b>	State government agency
<b>Overall funding amount for most recent fiscal year:</b>	\$2,543,047
<b>Overall funding sources:</b>	Child Care and Development Fund, Tobacco

	Settlement Fund
<b>Administration funding for most recent fiscal year:</b>	\$561,237
<b>Administration funding source:</b>	Child Care and Development Fund, Tobacco Settlement Fund
<b>Quality improvement funding for most recent fiscal year:</b>	\$242,780
<b>Quality improvement funding source:</b>	Child Care and Development Fund, Tobacco Settlement Fund
<b>Evaluation funding for most recent fiscal year:</b>	\$250,000
<b>Evaluation funding source:</b>	Child Care and Development Fund, Tobacco Settlement Dollars

## Partners

This section provides information about the roles and responsibilities of partners in the QRS.

<b>Partner 1 type :</b>	University
<b>Partner 1 name:</b>	University of Kentucky Human Development Institute, Quality Enhancement Initiative
<b>Partner 1 function:</b>	Collect/validate information/documentation to assign rating for Level 1 only, conduct observational assessments for technical assistance purposes, provide technical assistance and quality improvement services, provide system navigation support, manage communication/information dissemination, and evaluation of services provided to child care facilities and homes
<b>Work plan in place:</b>	Yes
<b>Partner 2 type:</b>	State Agency
<b>Partner 2 name:</b>	Kentucky Department of Education, Office of Early Childhood Development
<b>Partner 2 function:</b>	Coordinates the Early Childhood Authority and co-chairs the Stars Advisory Committee. Assist with recommendations for Tobacco Settlement Funding in regards to resource for STARS awards and incentives, professional development scholarships and community support through Early Childhood Development Councils.
<b>Work plan in place:</b>	No

## Linkage of QRS with Other Systems

This section provides information about how the QRS is linked with other systems/standards including child care subsidies, professional development, state early learning guidelines, and core knowledge /competencies for providers.

<b>Child care subsidies :</b>	Yes
<b>Description:</b>	Programs are eligible for Incentive Awards when they serve children who receive child care subsidies.
<b>Professional development:</b>	Yes
<b>Description</b>	Kentucky Early Childhood Development Scholarship
<b>Incorporation of other standards:</b>	No

## Evaluation

<b>Status of evaluation :</b>	No
<b>Published reports to date :</b>	Previous evaluation reports included in reference section below.

## Key Contacts

<b>Category :</b>	<b>Overall management</b>
<b>Contact name:</b>	Phillip Smith, Mary Beth Jackson
<b>Organization:</b>	Division of Child Care, Department of Community Based Services
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Marybeth.Jackson@ky.gov">Marybeth.Jackson@ky.gov</a> ; <a href="mailto:Phillip.Smith@ky.gov">Phillip.Smith@ky.gov</a>
<b>Phone:</b>	502-564-2524 x3204

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<http://www.education.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/32957A0D-4832-4441-808D-DC1198077206/0/FINALexecsummary20042k.pdf>.

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<http://www.education.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/C0105037-187D-4874-AB25-B0A0D4989E78/0/KIDSNOWEvaluationProject.pdf>.

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**STARS for KIDS NOW CHILD CARE QUALITY RATING SYSTEM STANDARDS**

7/01/2008

**LICENSED TYPE I CENTERS**

	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4</b>																																																													
<b>Ratios</b>	<p>1. Current Licensing standards</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Age</td> <td>Group Size</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0-1</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1-2</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2-3</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3-4</td> <td>1:15 30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4-5</td> <td>(before and after school) 1:25 30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-7</td> <td>full day care - 1:20 30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 and older</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>2. Staff to child ratios posted prominently in each classroom</p>	Age	Group Size	0-1	10		12	1-2	20		24	2-3	28	3-4	1:15 30	4-5	(before and after school) 1:25 30	5-7	full day care - 1:20 30	7 and older		<p>1. Current Licensing standards</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Age</td> <td>Group Size</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0-1</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1-2</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2-3</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3-4</td> <td>1:15 30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4-5</td> <td>(before and after school) 1:25 30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-7</td> <td>full day care - 1:20 30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 and older</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>2. Staff to child ratios posted prominently in each classroom</p>	Age	Group Size	0-1	10		12	1-2	20		24	2-3	28	3-4	1:15 30	4-5	(before and after school) 1:25 30	5-7	full day care - 1:20 30	7 and older		<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Age</td> <td>Ratio</td> <td>Group Size</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0-1</td> <td>1:4</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1-2</td> <td>1:5</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2-3</td> <td>1:8</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3-4</td> <td>1:11</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4-6</td> <td>1:12</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6-12</td> <td>1:14</td> <td>28</td> </tr> </table> <p>2. Required staff to child ratios posted prominently in each classroom</p>	Age	Ratio	Group Size	0-1	1:4	8	1-2	1:5	10	2-3	1:8	16	3-4	1:11	22	4-6	1:12	24	6-12	1:14	28	<p>1. Staff/Child ratios consistent with National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) recommendations (Ratios vary according to group size)</p> <p>2. Required child to caregiver ratios posted prominently in each classroom</p>
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<b>Curriculum</b>	<p>3. Current Licensing standards</p> <p>4. Complete STARS for KIDS NOW Overview including Environment Rating Scales (ERS) information</p> <p>5. Plan of program activities posted</p> <p>6. Daily schedule posted</p> <p>7. At least one family involvement activity annually</p> <p>8. Agree to complete ERS at each applicable age level within 12 months, no minimum score</p> <p>9. 2<sup>nd</sup> year: <b>written</b> ERS improvement plan</p>	<p>Requirements 3-7 in Level 1 <b>plus</b>:</p> <p>3. One additional family involvement activity annually<sup>4</sup> (total of 2)</p> <p>4. A <b>written</b> plan for family involvement</p> <p>5. Has completed all applicable Environment Rating Scales (ERS), average score of <b>3</b></p> <p>6. Develop annual <b>written</b> ERS improvement plan with assistance, if requested, from Cabinet or its designee</p> <p>7. Maintain a minimum average ERS score of <b>4</b> by 4<sup>th</sup> year and beyond</p>	<p>Level 2 requirements <b>plus</b>:</p> <p>3. One additional family involvement activity annually (total of 3)</p> <p>4. Documented family feedback procedure used annually</p> <p>5. Average program score of <b>4.5</b> on applicable ERS</p>	<p>Level 3 requirements <b>plus</b>:</p> <p>3. One additional family involvement activity annually (total of 4)</p> <p>4. Average program score of <b>6</b> on ERS</p> <p>5. Accreditation by Early Childhood Authority approved accrediting organization</p>																																																													
<b>Training</b>	<p>10. Current Licensing standards</p> <p>11. Create and implement individual staff development plans for all staff annually</p> <p>12. Introduction to the KY Early Childhood Development Scholarship program</p>	<p>Level 1 requirements <b>plus</b>:</p> <p>8. Center offers staff opportunity to participate in KY Early Childhood Development Scholarship Program, if eligible</p> <p>9. 15 clock hours annually of early care and education training approved by the cabinet or its designee</p> <p>10. <b>Director</b>: 18 clock hours annually of early care and education training approved by the cabinet or its designee</p>	<p>Level 2 requirements <b>plus</b>:</p> <p>6. <b>Staff</b>: <b>50%</b> of teaching staff have entry level credential or higher; <b>and 50%</b> of staff working with children have current CPR/First Aid training</p> <p>7. <b>Director</b>: 24 clock hours of training annually <b>and</b> CDA or Director Credential or Montessori Certificate or A.A. (or higher) in Early Childhood/Related degree</p> <p>8. For 75% of program hours, director or person on-site responsible for daily supervision of program and staff must have CDA or higher.</p>	<p>Level 3 requirements <b>plus</b>:</p> <p>6. <b>Staff</b>: Minimum of one CDA or higher in each classroom during all hours of operation</p> <p>7. <b>Director</b>: Meets approved national accrediting organization requirements <b>and</b> 24 clock hours of training annually <b>and</b> has a Kentucky Director's Credential</p>																																																													
<b>Regulatory Compliance</b>	Current license in good standing	Current license in good standing	Current license in good standing	Current license in good standing																																																													
<b>Personnel</b>	<p>All staff receive In-House STARS for KIDS NOW Overview covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>licensing regulations</li> <li>STARS for KIDS NOW standards</li> <li>Environment Rating Scales</li> <li>KY Early Childhood Development Scholarship program</li> </ul>	<p>Level 1 <b>plus</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>written standardized staff evaluations annually</li> </ul>	<p>Level 2 <b>plus</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>minimum of 6 days paid leave/year</li> <li>minimum of 11 days paid leave time after 1 year</li> </ul>	<p>Level 3 requirements</p> <hr/> <p><b>To qualify for Enhancement Award:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>health insurance available; program pays no less than 50% single plan for full-time employees</li> </ul>																																																													

**STARS for KIDS NOW CHILD CARE QUALITY RATING SYSTEM STANDARDS  
CERTIFIED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES**

7/01/2008

	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4</b>
Ratios	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current Certification Standards</li> <li>Post rules regarding allowable capacity restrictions according to ages of children in care</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current Certification Standards</li> <li>Post rules regarding allowable capacity restrictions according to ages of children in care</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If caring for <b>6</b> or fewer children, no more than <b>3</b> infants unless an assistant is present. If caring for more than <b>6</b> children, no more than <b>3</b> under the age of <b>24 months</b> unless an assistant is present. <i>(Includes own and related children.)</i></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 3 restrictions, and maximum capacity of <b>9</b>. <i>(May care for up to 3 own or related children in addition to 6 unrelated children.)</i></li> </ol>
Curriculum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current certification standards</li> <li>Complete STARS for KIDS NOW Overview</li> <li>Plan of program activities posted</li> <li>Daily schedule posted</li> <li>At least one family involvement activity annually</li> <li>Agree to complete a curriculum assessment using family child care ERS within 12 months <i>(No minimum score)</i></li> <li>Second year: <b>written</b> improvement plan based on assessment findings in place</li> </ol>	<p>Level 1 requirements <b>plus</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An additional family involvement activity annually (minimum of 2)</li> <li>A <b>written</b> family involvement plan</li> <li>Completed family child care ERS with an average program score of <b>3</b></li> <li>Develop annual <b>written</b> ERS improvement plan with assistance, if requested, from Cabinet or its designee</li> <li>Maintain minimum average ERS score of <b>4</b> beyond 4<sup>th</sup> year</li> <li>Reads to children <b>daily</b></li> </ol>	<p>Level 2 requirements <b>plus</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An additional family involvement activity annually <i>(minimum of 3)</i></li> <li>An average program score of <b>4.5</b> on family child care ERS</li> <li>Must score at least <b>5</b> on family child care ERS items related to use of TV. Provider limits use of TV to programs and video games regarded as good for children <i>(no more than 2 hrs/day)</i>. Activities are provided as an alternative while TV is on.</li> </ol>	<p>Level 3 requirements <b>plus</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An additional family involvement activity annually <i>(minimum of 4)</i></li> <li>An average program score of <b>5.5</b> on family child care ERS</li> <li>Accreditation by state approved national accrediting organization</li> </ol> <hr/> <p><b>To qualify for Enhancement Award:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An average program score <b>above 5.5</b> on family child care ERS</li> </ul>
Training	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current certification standards</li> <li>Provider creates and implements a <b>written</b> training plan</li> <li>Introduction to KY Early Childhood Scholarship program <i>(part of STARS Overview)</i></li> </ol>	<p>Level 1 requirements <b>plus</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 1 staff on duty has current CPR/First Aid training</li> <li><b>9</b> clock hours annually of early care and education training approved by the cabinet or its designee</li> </ol>	<p>Level 2 requirements <b>plus</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic Orientation training for assistants</li> <li>6 annual training hours for assistants</li> <li>Provider has a total of <b>18</b> clock hours of training annually <b>or</b> has entry level credential or higher <b>and</b> completes <b>9</b> clock hours of training annually</li> <li>By 4<sup>th</sup> year in STARS, provider <b>must</b> have CDA or higher.</li> </ol>	<p>Level 3 requirements <b>plus</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provider has received Director's Credential <u>and</u> CDA, AA or higher in Early Childhood or a related degree</li> </ol>
Business Practices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Written</b> program policies including: fees, holidays, vacation, late fees, illness, hours of operation, who may pick up a child, and a plan for how information is shared daily with parents</li> <li><b>Written</b> parent/provider agreement</li> </ol>	<p>Level 1 requirements <b>plus</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain a financial program/ record-keeping system</li> </ol>	<p>Level 2 requirements <b>plus</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide families with <b>written</b> daily report for children age 2 and under</li> <li>Parents provided with handbook that contains program's policies</li> </ol>	<p>Level 3 requirements <b>plus</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be a member of an early childhood professional organization</li> </ol>
Regulatory Compliance	Current certification in good standing	Current certification in good standing	Current certification in good standing	Current certification in good standing

**STARS for KIDS NOW CHILD CARE QUALITY RATING SYSTEM STANDARDS  
LICENSED TYPE II FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES**

7/01/2008

	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4</b>
Ratios	1. Current Licensing standards; 12 maximum number children in care Age                      Ratio 0-1                      1:5 1-2                      1:6 2-3                      1:10 3 and older            1:12 2. Caregiver to child ratios posted prominently.	1. Current Licensing standards; 12 maximum number children in care Age                      Ratio 0-1                      1:5 1-2                      1:6 2-3                      1:10 3 and older            1:12 2. Caregiver to child ratios posted prominently.	1.     Age                      Ratio 0 - 1                      1:4 1 - 2                      1:5 2 - 3                      1:8 3 and older            1:12 2. Required caregiver to child ratios posted prominently.	1.     Age                      Ratio 0 - 1                      1:4 1 - 2                      1:5 2 - 3                      1:8 3 and older            1:12 2. Required caregiver to child ratios posted prominently.
Curriculum	3. Current licensing standards 4. Complete STARS for KIDS NOW Overview 5. Plan of program activities posted 6. Daily schedule posted 7. At least one family involvement activity annually 8. Agree to complete a curriculum assessment using family child care ERS within 12 months ( <i>No minimum score</i> ) 9. Second year: <b>written</b> improvement plan based on assessment findings in place	Level 1 requirements <b>plus</b> : 3. An additional family involvement activity annually ( <i>minimum of 2</i> ) 4. A <b>written</b> plan for family involvement 5. Completed family child care ERS with an average program score of <b>3</b> 6. Develop annual <b>written</b> ERS improvement plan with assistance, if requested, from Cabinet or its designee 7. Maintain minimum average ERS score of <b>4</b> beyond 4 <sup>th</sup> year 8. Reads to children <b>daily</b>	Level 2 requirements <b>plus</b> : 3. An additional family involvement activity annually ( <i>minimum of 3</i> ) 4. An average program score of <b>4.5</b> on family child care ERS 5. Must score at least <b>5</b> on family child care ERS items related to use of TV. Provider limits use of TV to programs and video games regarded as good for children ( <i>no more than 2 hrs/day</i> ). Activities are provided as an alternative while TV is on.	Level 3 requirements <b>plus</b> : 3. An additional family involvement activity annually (minimum of 4) 4. An average program score of <b>5.5</b> on family child care ERS 5. Accreditation by state approved national accrediting organization <hr/> <b>To qualify for Enhancement Award:</b> • An average program score <b>above 5.5</b> on family child care ERS
Training	10. Current licensing standards 11. Create and implement <b>written</b> individual training plans for director <b>and</b> staff annually 12. Introduction to the KY Early Childhood Development Scholarship program	Level 1 requirements <b>plus</b> : 9. Home offers staff opportunity to participate in KY ECD Scholarship Program, if eligible 10. <b>15</b> clock hours annually of early care and education training approved by the cabinet or its designee 11. <b>Director: 15</b> clock hours annually of early care and education training approved by the cabinet or its designee	Level 2 requirements <b>plus</b> : 6. <b>Staff</b> have a total of <b>18</b> clock hours of training annually <b>or</b> have entry level credential or higher and complete 15 clock hours of training annually 7. <b>Director</b> has total of <b>21</b> clock hours training <b>or</b> has higher level of education <b>and</b> completes <b>18</b> clock hours of training annually 8. By 4 <sup>th</sup> year in STARS, director <b>must</b> have CDA or higher	Level 3 requirements <b>plus</b> : 6. <b>Staff</b> have a total of <b>21</b> clock hours training annually <b>or</b> entry level credential or higher 7. <b>Director</b> has Director's Credential <b>and</b> CDA, AA (or higher) in Early Childhood or (related) degree
Business Practices	13. <b>Written</b> program policies including: fees, holidays, vacation, late fees, illness, hours of operation, who may pick up a child, a plan for how info is shared daily with parents 14. <b>Written</b> parent/provider agreement	Level 1 requirements <b>plus</b> : 11. Maintain a financial program/ record-keeping system	Level 2 requirements <b>plus</b> : 9. Provide families with <b>written</b> daily report for children age 2 and under 10. Parents provided with handbook that contains program's policies	Level 3 requirements <b>plus</b> : 8. Be a member of an early childhood professional organization
Regulatory Compliance	Current license in good standing	Current license in good standing	Current license in good standing	Current license in good standing

## **Financial Incentives**

### **Tiered Reimbursement (Referred to as Quality Incentive Award)**

For Children Under 3:

Percentage of Subsidy Children in the Center	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
1-10%	\$8.00	\$12.00	\$15.00
11-25%	\$9.00	\$13.00	\$16.00
26-50%	\$10.00	\$14.00	\$17.00
51-75%	\$11.00	\$15.00	\$18.00
76%	\$12.00	\$16.00	\$19.00

Children over 3:

1-10%	\$7.00	\$11.00	\$14.00
11-25%	\$8.00	\$12.00	\$15.00
26-50%	\$9.00	\$13.00	\$16.00
51%-75%	\$10.00	\$14.00	\$17.00
76%	\$11.00	\$15.00	\$18.00

For Family Child Care

Children Under 3:

Level 2-\$10.00

Level 3-\$14.00

Level 4-\$17.00

Children over 3:

Level 2-\$9.00

Level 3-\$13.00

Level 4-\$16.00

### **Quality Award**

For Licensed Type I Centers

Initial Achievement Awards-

	<50 children	51-100 Children	>100 children
Level 1	\$200	\$200	\$200
Level 2	\$500	\$750	\$1000
Level 3	\$1700	\$2200	\$2700
Level 4	\$3000	\$4000	\$5000

Annual Achievement Awards-

	<50 children	51-100 Children	> 100 children
Level 3	\$850	\$1100	\$1350
Level 4	\$1500	\$2000	\$2500

Annual Enhancement Award-

	<50 children	51-100 Children	> 100 children
Level 4	\$1500	\$2000	\$2500

For Certified Family Child Care / Type II Homes

Initial Achievement Awards

Level 1-\$100

Level 2-\$250

Level 3-\$500

Level 4-\$1000

Annual Achievement Awards

Level 3-\$250

Level 4-\$500

Annual Enhancement Awards

Level 4-\$500