



## Quality Stars—Choosing a high quality program means a strong start for your child

Congratulations! Your child's early learning program is participating in [Quality Stars](#). This means that your child's teacher is committed to giving your child high quality early education.

### Why Quality Matters

A child's brain develops more in the first five years than at any other time of life. That's why it's important that your child gets the best education possible during these years. Choosing a high quality program makes a difference.

Quality programs offer:

- ★ A safe environment created to help children learn
- ★ Teaching through fun activities that help your child develop
- ★ Teachers who have more education and training
- ★ A focus on making sure your child is ready for school

Children who receive high quality early education are:

- ★ Better prepared for kindergarten
- ★ More likely to be proficient in reading and math by the third grade
- ★ More likely to graduate from high school and attend college

### About Quality Stars

Quality Stars is a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS), an easy-to-follow 5-star system that rates the quality of your child's program. Quality Stars is one of many programs that are part of QualityStart OC, an initiative that supports quality early learning in Orange County.

By participating in Quality Stars, your child's program and teachers are showing that they are committed to providing the best learning experiences possible for your child. In fact, by participating in Quality Stars, they are demonstrating a commitment to a level of quality above and beyond what the state of California requires for early childhood education licensing.

Many early education programs already participate in Quality Stars, and it's continuing to grow. By December 2015, over 300 preschools, child care, and family child care sites in Orange County will be part of Quality Stars. They are joining hundreds of early education sites across California that participate in similar quality rating and improvement systems.

High quality teachers and programs are always trying to improve. For that reason, your child's teacher may be getting extra training and you may see other people in your child's classroom who are working to support a high quality learning environment.

### Get Involved!

A high quality program encourages parents to take an active role in their child's learning. Ask your child's teacher how you can support your child's learning at home and in the classroom.

Share the story of quality! Tell your friends and family about the importance of high quality care and education. More information about [Quality Stars](#) and QualityStart OC can be found by visiting [QualityStartOC.org](http://QualityStartOC.org).



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