



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A **STAR 3** PROGRAM?

Keystone STARS is a responsive quality rating and improvement system led by Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). Its mission is to improve, support, and recognize the continuous quality improvement efforts of early learning programs across the state.

Keystone STARS rates childcare programs from **1 to 4 STARS** based on things that matter most to families. Programs must meet Pennsylvania's health and safety requirements while also providing a welcoming, kid-friendly environment with caring, qualified teachers who partner with families to help children learn and grow.

Childcare programs participating in Keystone STARS earn a **STAR 1 through STAR 4 rating** based on quality standards that measure:

- **Staff Education:** Early childhood teachers have the education, training, and knowledge needed to work with young children.
- **Classroom & Learning Environment:** Programs provide age-appropriate materials, activities, and learning experiences that help children discover something new every day.
- **Families & Community:** Families and community members are encouraged to participate in and support a child's learning and development.
- **Leadership & Management:** Quality programs use strong leadership and sound business practices to support children's safety, learning, and overall well-being.

As programs earn more STARS, they demonstrate **higher levels of quality in early education and care.**

Seeds of Joy received a STAR 2 rating in our third year. Ratings are reviewed annually and renewed when programs complete the required quality indicators and remain in compliance. This summer, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our current staff, we completed the necessary indicators and earned STAR 3 status. We are proud to be one of only two similar nursery schools in our area with a rating above STAR 1 AND to do it within 5 years of our opening!

Please join me in congratulating our Seeds of Joy staff, Nursery School Advisory committee, our congregation and community on this amazing achievement!