

Early childhood education confers long-lasting, positive life outcomes—but only if the early childhood program is high quality. A strong state investment in QUALITYstarsNY, New York State's voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System for early childhood programs, ensures that families with young children can access programs that are committed to improving and sustaining the highest quality of early childhood care and education.

How QUALITYstarsNY Benefits New York's Children and Families

- Provides robust, individualized quality improvement support to early childhood programs, including 1-1 guidance from a Quality Improvement Specialist, resources, materials, and professional development so they can best serve children and families.
- Safeguards New York's multi-billion dollar state and federal investments in early learning by providing quality assurance and accountability for less than \$300 per child.
- Serves as a valuable resource to help families find quality early childhood programs in their area.

QUALITYstarsNY Works!

The data tells a story—after three years of continuous quality improvement work with QUALITYstarsNY, programs are re-rated to assess their progress. This progress is measured in points leading to star level increases. **Among re-rated programs, 70% increased their Star Rating or sustained a high quality rating of 3, 4 or 5 Stars.** Almost all of the remaining programs earned significantly more points, which eventually leads to increased star levels.

"I believe during these times of uncertainty is when our Quality Improvement Specialist is most needed. We need a source of support, to reinforce and remind us to continue our best practices no matter how tough our adjustments may be."

Lisa Thomas
Family Child Care Provider
Brooklyn, NYC

Continued Growth Requires a Strong, Sustained State Investment

In 2021, New York State allocated \$35 million in federal recovery funds to expand participation in QUALITYstarsNY over the next three years. We applaud state and federal lawmakers for demonstrating the importance of high quality early childhood education in New York's economic recovery. QUALITYstarsNY is committed to providing the comprehensive support early childhood programs need to persevere in the wake of the pandemic; however we cannot stop there. Sustaining the growth of QUALITYstarsNY is necessary to raise and maintain the quality of early childhood education in New York State so more children are supported on their path to success in school and in life.

QUALITYstarsNY requests an increase in annual funding from \$5 million to \$20 million in the New York State budget to build a foundation for long-term growth and to ensure that more early childhood programs, and the families they serve, can benefit from the comprehensive support that QUALITYstarsNY provides.

The new funding aimed at supporting New York's recovery from the pandemic provides the opportunity for the state to proactively position QUALITYstarsNY to have the most profound impact on the quality of New York's early childhood system in New York in the years to come. Building the state's base of funding for QUALITYstarsNY now will guarantee a strong, successful, and wide-reaching project into the future.

Learn more about QUALITYstarsNY at qualitystarsny.org.

Supporting **1000+** early childhood programs



that serve



65,000+ children

Thousands of New York's children are benefiting from the quality improvement support provided to participating programs.