



Rising Stars for ME Standards: Facilities (13 or more children), Licensed and License-Exempt

Standard 1: Learning Environment/Developmentally Appropriate Practice				
Star 1★	Star 2★★	Star 3★★★	Star 4★★★★	Star 5★★★★★
<i>To attain and maintain Star 1, a program must meet the following Requirements, as defined by the Child Care Subsidy Program Rules:</i>	<i>To attain and maintain Star 2, a program must be licensed.</i>	<i>To attain and maintain Star 3, a program must meet the following Requirements:</i>	<i>To attain and maintain Star 4, a program must continue to meet Star 3 Requirements AND meet the following Requirements:</i>	<i>To attain and maintain Star 5, a program must continue to meet Star 3 & 4 Requirements AND meet the following Requirements:</i>
<i>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 1.</i>	<i>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 2.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The program's activities and experiences are guided by a general understanding of the developmental domains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social/Emotional; Cognitive; Physical (gross and fine motor; self-help skills); Language/ Communication Skills; Approaches to Learning. The method for planning activities and experiences is based on children's interests, skills, and abilities. The program posts and follows a daily 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The program has an articulated approach to learning and development. This can be met in one or more of the following ways: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Using an evidence-based curriculum, such as OWL, Creative Curriculum, HighScope, PreK for ME, etc. Following a specific program philosophy, such as Montessori, Waldorf, Reggio Emilia, Lifeways, etc. Using the Head Start Child Development and Learning 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The program holds current accreditation from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) The American Montessori Society (AMS) The Council on Accreditation (COA) OR meets performance standards as evaluated by Head Start.



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		<p>schedule that supports child-centered play and exploration, both indoors and outdoors, and is responsive to the interests and developmental needs of the children and youth.</p> <p>4. Materials and equipment are developmentally appropriate, accessible, and reflect all children's interests, skills, abilities. The materials and equipment represent the children, youth, and families served.</p> <p>5. The program has a clearly stated policy addressing suspension and</p>	<p>Framework to guide curriculum.</p> <p>d. Using a program-generated method of curriculum development.</p> <p>2. The activity planning supports children's positive social and emotional development using strategies with all children and youth that include: providing choices, using redirection, reflection, and program solving, and setting clear rules and expectations.</p>	



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		<p>expulsion and supports available for children with social and emotional and/or behavioral health needs.</p> <p>6. For programs serving children ages six weeks to kindergarten: The Program Owner/Director or staff responsible for curriculum planning (e.g. Education Coordinator) has completed the training(s) relevant to all ages enrolled in the program: <i>Infant and Toddler Maine's Early Learning and Development Standards (IT MELDS)</i> for ages birth to age 3;</p>		



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		<p>and/or Maine's Early Learning and Development Standards (MELDS) for ages 3-5.</p> <p>7. For programs serving children ages six weeks to kindergarten: The MELDS and IT MELDS documents are referred to during activity planning.</p> <p>8. For programs serving children ages six weeks to kindergarten: The program has at least one Lead Teacher in each child age group who has completed the MELDS or IT MELDS training(s).</p> <p>9. For programs serving ages six weeks to</p>		



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		thirty-six months: The activities are individualized to each child's routines and rhythms.		



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Standard 2: Program Evaluation				
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<i>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 1.</i>	<i>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 2.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The program completes annual Staff and Family Surveys to gather input on the program's strengths and opportunities. 2. The program completes the <i>Rising Stars for ME Inclusive Practices Checklist</i> on an annual basis for the following categories: Prerequisites and TWO other categories of choice. 3. The program writes a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Plan based upon the results from the Staff and Family Surveys and the <i>Rising Stars for ME Inclusive Practices Checklist</i>. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The program conducts an annual self-assessment based on NAEYC, AMS, or COA accreditation Standards OR the Head Start Performance Standards. 2. The program completes all categories of the <i>Rising Stars for ME Inclusive Practices Checklist</i> on an annual basis. 3. The program includes results from the chosen self-assessment and all categories of the <i>Rising Stars for ME Inclusive Practices Checklist</i>. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The program holds current accreditation from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) b. The American Montessori Society (AMS) c. The Council on Accreditation (COA) OR meets performance standards as evaluated by Head Start.



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		4. The program holds staff meetings at least quarterly that include discussions regarding the CQI plan.	Checklist in its CQI Plan.	



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Standard 3: Staff Qualifications and Professional Development				
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<i>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 1.</i>	<i>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 2.</i>	1. For programs serving children ages six weeks to kindergarten and/or mixed age programs: At least 50% of Lead Teachers are at a Level 5 or above on the MRTQ Direct Care Career Lattice. For programs serving school age children ONLY: At least 25% of staff working twenty or more hours per week are at a Level 3 or above on the MRTQ Direct Care Career Lattice.	1. For programs serving children ages six weeks to kindergarten and/or mixed age programs: At least 50% of all permanent/regular staff are at least a Level 5 or above on the MRTQ Direct Care Career Lattice. For programs serving school age children ONLY: At least 50% of all staff working at least twenty hours per week are at least a Level 3 on the MRTQ Direct Care Career Lattice. 2. All staff create an individual annual Professional Development Plan addressing their	1. The program holds current accreditation from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) b. The American Montessori Society (AMS) c. The Council on Accreditation (COA) OR meets performance standards as evaluated by Head Start.



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			training and education goals.	



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Standard 4: Administration and Business Practices				
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<i>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 1.</i>	<i>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 2.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> All staff have a written job description defining job responsibilities. The program provides monthly opportunities for individual supervision. All staff are evaluated at least annually by a supervisor to refine their skills through feedback and guidance. The Program Director or staff responsible for on-site program administration has completed at least one <i>Child Care Leadership Institute I, II, or III</i> with MRTQ PDN OR demonstrate completion of 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Staff with curriculum planning responsibilities are provided with at least one hour per week to dedicate to curriculum planning. The program offers a benefit package including at least two of the following benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced child care rates for children of staff; Tuition reimbursement; Paid training (for hourly staff); Mileage reimbursement for travel to training/education; 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The program holds current accreditation from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) The American Montessori Society (AMS) The Council on Accreditation (COA) OR meets performance standards as evaluated by Head Start.



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		<p>comparable college course work.</p> <p>5. The Program Director or staff responsible for on-site program administration has completed the six-hour on-demand training <i>Supporting Inclusion: Laws and Practices</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health insurance; • Dental insurance; • Disability insurance; • Access to an Staff Assistance Program (EAP); • Retirement plan; • Paid vacation; • Paid sick time; • Paid personal time; • Paid holidays. <p>3. The program offers staff the opportunity to participate in the development and revision of program policies.</p>	



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Standard 5: Family Engagement and Partnership				
Star 1★	Star 2★★	Star 3★★★	Star 4★★★★	Star 5★★★★★
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<i>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 1.</i>	<i>There are no Requirements in this Standard for Star 2.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The program provides families with regular communication and updates on the program in ways that support varied literacy levels, abilities, family culture, and home language. The program provides information for families on local and state resources related to individual child and family needs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> For programs serving children ages six weeks to kindergarten: The program offers families at least two conferences per year to discuss their child's cognitive, social and emotional, and physical development and needs. Programs serving school age children offer families of school age children conference time at least once per year to discuss their child's cognitive, social and emotional, and physical development and needs.. The program has a policy addressing its 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The program holds current accreditation from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) The American Montessori Society (AMS) The Council on Accreditation (COA) OR meets performance standards as evaluated by Head Start.



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			participation in Individualized Family Support Plans (IFSP) and/or Individualized Education Plans (IEP).	



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Standard 6: Child and Youth Assessment				
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<i>There are no Requirements for this Standard for Star 1.</i>	<i>There are no Requirements for this Standard for Star 2.</i>	1. At least once per year, the program collects and summarizes evidence of children's development in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social/Emotional; • Cognitive; • Physical (gross and fine motor; self-help skills); • Language/Communication Skills; • Approaches to Learning; and incorporates this evidence into curriculum planning.	1. At least twice per year, the program collects and summarizes evidence of children's development in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social/Emotional; • Cognitive; • Physical (gross and fine motor; self-help skills); • Language/Communication Skills; • Approaches to Learning; and incorporates this evidence into curriculum planning.	1. The program holds current accreditation from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) b. The American Montessori Society (AMS) c. The Council on Accreditation (COA) OR meets performance standards as evaluated by Head Start.



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Standard 7: Health, Safety, Nutrition, and Physical Activity				
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<i>There are no Requirements for this Standard for Star 2.</i>	<i>There are no Requirements for this Standard for Star 2.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The program retains and makes available all town/city-related safety inspections (e.g. fire inspection, well inspection, building permit, etc.). 2. The program completes an annual nutrition/physical activity baseline self-assessment, then develops and implements an action plan to achieve one strategy for improvement. 3. The Provider Handbook includes a policy describing how the program meets the dietary needs of children/youth taking into consideration diverse food and 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The program completes an annual nutrition/physical activity baseline self-assessment, then develops and implements an action plan to achieve two strategies for improvement. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The program holds current accreditation from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) b. The American Montessori Society (AMS) c. The Council on Accreditation (COA) OR meets performance standards as evaluated by Head Start.



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		nutrition as determined by culture, religion, and/or disabilities.		