

Ready to Rise!

The first five years of a child's life are the most critical period of brain development. Quality early experiences prepare children for success in kindergarten and in life. Choosing child care that meets your family's needs and provides high quality experiences is an important decision - *Rising Stars for ME* is here to help!

Rising Stars for ME is Maine's newly revised quality rating and improvement system (QRIS). *Rising Stars for ME* replaces *Quality for ME* as Maine's QRIS. All licensed child care programs are required to enroll with *Rising Stars for ME*.



A Maine taxpayer who enrolls a child in a child care program that maintains a Star 5 rating is eligible for a double child care tax credit on their state income tax return. For more information, visit the Maine Revenue Services website at: tinyurl.com/2nhxb5e.

For families receiving Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP) funding, choosing a program at a Star 4 will result in a 10% reduction in Parent Fee determination. Families choosing a Star 5 program will receive a 20% reduction in their Parent Fee determination.



What Is *Rising Stars for ME*?

Quality child care matters. That might look slightly different to different families, but there are some key factors that are proven to set children up for success. Using the *Rising Stars for ME* Standards to guide continuous quality improvement gives programs evidence-based indicators of quality while allowing them to create their own goals. There are many paths to quality and programs and families can choose their own way with *Rising Stars for ME*!

Rising Stars for ME has three goals:

1. To recognize early childhood and out-of-school time programs that provide quality care.
2. To encourage and support programs to engage in continuous quality improvement.
3. To provide families with identifiable standards of quality.

The Standards

Rising Stars for ME guides programs through an application that combines self-assessment with training and education information related to seven Standard areas:

- ★ Learning Environment and Developmentally Appropriate Practice
- ★ Program Evaluation
- ★ Staffing and Professional Development
- ★ Administration and Business Practices
- ★ Family Engagement and Partnership
- ★ Child and Youth Assessment
- ★ Health, Safety, Physical Activity and Nutrition

Supporting Families and Children

Maine cares about children and families. The success of your children is as important to us as it is to you!

Rising Stars for ME is a tool designed to give you information about the child care programs in your area. You know your child best, and *Rising Stars for ME* can help you make the right choice for your family.

Rising Stars for ME is here for you!

Rising Stars for ME is funded by the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Block Grant Program and administered by Maine's Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS).

Child Care Choices

If you are searching for child care options for your family, you can find information about programs, including their *Rising Stars for ME* ratings, at

CHILD CARE CHOICES.ME



RISINGSTARSFORME.ORG

For more information about the Standards of *Rising Stars for ME* visit risingstarsforme.org.

Contact us at risingstarsforme@maine.edu or 1-888-900-0055



RISING STARS FOR ME
Maine's Quality Rating and Improvement System



Rising Stars for ME

Recognizing and Supporting Quality Early Childhood and Out-of-School Time Programs in Maine

