

Families use Parent Aware Star Ratings to find the quality care and early learning programs their children need to succeed in school and life.

When a program volunteers to participate in the Parent Aware Star Rating process, we like to say they are letting their stars shine. They are going above and beyond health and safety requirements and are sharing that with families looking for quality care and education programs.

Participating programs receive a Rating of One, Two, Three or Four Stars. Parent Aware Ratings are based on demonstrated use of practices that best prepare children for kindergarten. Each Rating level builds on the previous, helping families easily identify how far a program has progressed in adopting these practices.

## One-Star Rating

These programs have demonstrated these best practices:

- Uses consistent routines to support children
- Talks with children and families to better understand interests and culture
- Shares important community resources with families
- Learns about each individual child by observing and taking notes
- Commits to and maintains professional ethics in the early learning field

## Two-Star Rating

These programs have demonstrated all One-Star practices, AND:

- Evaluates learning activities, materials, classroom layout, and health-related practices to set goals for growth
- Plans school-readiness activities for children
- Guides families through their children's transition to kindergarten
- Shares information with families in ways that meet their unique needs
- Plans for continued learning and professional growth

## Three-Star Rating

These programs have demonstrated all One- and Two-Star practices, AND:

- Uses a curriculum aligned with Minnesota's early learning standards
- Teaches in a way that is organized, challenging, and warm



- Helps children transition between activities and stay engaged
- Uses approved tools to track children’s development
- Commits to ongoing quality improvement by using **some** of these best practices:
  - Responds to unique cultural customs and needs of children and families
  - Offers activities that encourage family participation and help children transition to kindergarten
  - Gives families opportunities to provide feedback about the program
  - Shares child development updates with families to set goals together
  - Makes accommodations for children with special needs and their families
  - Has highly-qualified and trained leadership staff, teachers, and providers
  - Creates a program-wide professional development plan
  - Encourages healthy living through nutrition and physical activity, always evaluating to set goals for growth

## Four-Star Rating

These programs have demonstrated all One-, Two-, and Three-Star practices, AND commits to ongoing quality improvement by using **most** of these best practices:

- Responds to unique cultural customs and needs of children and families
- Offers activities that encourage family participation and help children transition to kindergarten
- Gives families opportunities to provide feedback about the program
- Shares child development updates with families to set goals together
- Makes accommodations for children with special needs and their families
- Has highly-qualified and trained leadership staff, teachers, and providers
- Creates a program-wide professional development plan
- Encourages healthy living through nutrition and physical activity, always evaluating to set goals for growth

*When searching online, users may also see these labels:*

## Rating in Process

Program has volunteered and is currently in the Rating process.

## Not Eligible for Rating

Program is not eligible for Rating.

## Not Allowed to Participate: Licensing Sanction

Program is not allowed to participate in the Rating process because it has received a sanction against its child care license.

## Has Not Volunteered

This means a provider or program:

- Has not volunteered to participate in Parent Aware **OR**
- Applied for a Parent Aware Star Rating, but did not achieve one **OR**
- Had a Rating that expired