

## What it means for a child care program to be part of STARS

**The S**T**ep Ahead Recognition System (STARS) is Vermont's quality rating system for child care programs.**

Parents can use STARS to help them choose child care. They can look for STARS as one indicator of quality. Quality programs help ensure a good foundation for the present and future of your child.

### What do the STARS mean?

Any program that is part of STARS has gone above and beyond what the state regulations require. The more STARS a program has, the more successful it has been, but even one STAR shows you that a program has made the extra effort to offer your child a better experience. STARS rewards child care, preschool, and afterschool programs when they improve their programs.

When you are interviewing providers ask them if they are participating in the STARS program!

For more information, go to <http://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/stars>.