

The Early Childhood Education Team from the North Texas Area United Way has developed a research-based quality rating system which incorporates standards from Texas Rising Star, National Association for the Education of Young Children, and other research-based quality rating and improvement systems.

## Star Level One

- ★ Maintain licensing standards (with no probationary status)
- ★ Center director must complete a director self assessment

## Star Level Two

- ★ All direct care staff must receive 20 hours of professional development per year
- ★ Annual evaluations conducted on all staff
- ★ Prepare a staff and parent handbook
- ★ Set up classroom learning centers (except in infant rooms)
- ★ Implement weekly lesson plans
- ★ Receive Caregiver Interaction Scale Assessment Scores between 2.0 and 2.5
- ★ Implement two parent engagement strategies (calendar, bulletin boards, etc.)
- ★ Start a quarterly newsletter for parents
- ★ Hold parent teacher conferences once a year
- ★ Compile a budget and profit/loss statement
- ★ Begin paperwork/process of applying to the Texas Rising Star program

## Star Level Three

- ★ All full time teachers must receive ten hours of general professional development and ten hours of age specific professional development
- ★ Complete the course "Childcare as a Business"
- ★ Become Texas Rising Star Certified
- ★ Begin monthly staff development activities
- ★ Add a child development associate to staff (at least one staff, other than the director, must have a CDA or nine credit hours in Early Childhood or Education)
- ★ Earn higher ITERS/ECERS scores (3.6 – 4.0)
- ★ Receive Caregiver Interaction Scale Assessment Scores between 2.6 - 3.0
- ★ Establish a memorandum of understanding with another agency in an effort to link the child care agency to other agencies providing screening or intervention services
- ★ Develop a plan to integrate physical and nutritional standards
- ★ Hold annual parent workshops
- ★ Create a resource center for parents
- ★ Send weekly notes home to parents

## Star Level Four ★★★★★

- ★ Plan professional development for each employee
- ★ All full time employees must receive ten hours of general professional development and ten hours of age specific professional development
- ★ Director must earn an associate's degree (or higher) or the equivalent sixty credit hours
- ★ At least 15% of staff must have a CDA or higher
- ★ Earn higher ITERS/ECERS scores (4.1 – 5.0)
- ★ Receive Caregiver Interaction Scale Assessment Scores between 3.1 and 3.5
- ★ Start a volunteer program for family members
- ★ Complete a parent feedback strategy

## Star Level Five ★★★★★

- ★ All full time employees must receive thirty hours of general professional development and ten hours of age specific professional development
- ★ Director must have a bachelor's degree or higher
- ★ Director must mentor another director for a minimum of two hours a month
- ★ At least 30% of staff must hold a CDA or higher
- ★ Earn higher ITERS/ECERS scores (5.1 - 7.0)
- ★ Receive Caregiver Interaction Scale Assessment Scores between 3.6 and 4.0
- ★ Conduct developmental assessments of children and communicate results to parents
- ★ Improve child/staff ratios
- ★ Participate in CLASS evaluations
- ★ Plan transition program for children entering kindergarten
- ★ Start a monthly newsletter for parents
- ★ Hold parent conferences twice a year

## Star Level Five Plus ★★★★★ +

- ★ NAEYC Accreditation

The Race for the Stars program was designed by the Early Childhood Education team at the North Texas Area United Way to ensure that all children have equal access to quality early childhood education. The program is comprised of five components including: assessment, technical assistance, professional development, incentives, and rating. Each component of the Race to the Stars program will work in collaboration to improve the quality of early childhood education and in turn ensure that more students graduate from high school in the North Texas area.

**For more information on the Race for the Stars program:**

Trish Dillmon  
Director of Early Childhood Education  
North Texas Area United Way  
(940) 322-8638

[www.ntauw.org](http://www.ntauw.org)



North Texas Area United Way