CCS Texas Rising Star
Program

What is a CCS Texas Rising Star?

- Texas Rising Star providers voluntarily participate in a plan to improve the quality of their services by meeting program requirements that go above the Minimum Licensing Standards for Licensed Centers or Licensed/Registered Family Homes.
- The Star requirements are based on Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) in Early Childhood Programs.

What is required to become a Texas Rising Star?

- You must be a CCS Provider.
- You must have limited standard deficiencies with the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (TDFPS).
- The Director and/or staff meet basic educational requirements.
- Provide CCS with a parent handbook.
- Provide a current health, fire and gas pipe inspection.
- Have a written orientation plan for new staff that meets TDFPS requirements that includes a review of the Texas Rising Star Criteria.

How do I become a Texas Rising Star?

- You must submit your application to your Child Care Provider Specialist.
- An on-site screening visit will be scheduled after you have completed a self-assessment. The initial screening visit will evaluate your program for the following areas: child/staff interaction, equipment and materials in each room and outdoors, health and safety, nutrition and mealtime, and curriculum/lesson plans. Feedback will be provided at the end of the screening visit. Your self-assessment forms will be used during this visit.
- If corrections need to be completed, your Child Care Provider Specialist will schedule an assessment date.
- After the assessment has been completed, you will be notified of your Star rating.

What are the benefits of being a Star Provider?

- You may be eligible to receive a higher CCS reimbursement rate.
- You may designate a total of 6 provider choice holidays.
- Consultation is available from your Child Care Provider Specialist to achieve quality and maintain your Star requirements.
- Monitoring visits will be conducted throughout the certification period.
Summary of the Certification Requirements

1. Licensing Compliance - Meet TRS prescreening and Minimum Standards for Child Care Licensing.

2. Director Qualifications for Licensed Centers. This does not apply to Family Homes.

3. Caregiver Staff Qualifications - an educational background and experience in developmentally appropriate programs for ages served.

4. Staff orientation - caregivers in licensed or group homes receive orientation on certain items before beginning duties as a caregiver.

5. Staff training - caregivers must receive a minimum of 30 clock hours of training annually and 36 clock hours for the director. Including a minimum of 6 clock hours in program administration, management and supervision.

6. Group Size - sets maximum group size for various ages served. This fosters more positive interactions.

7. Curriculum/Activities - must be developmentally appropriate for each child served.

8. Caregiver-Child Interaction - caregivers foster children's self-esteem; promote respect for individual differences and provide positive interactions.

9. Indoor and Outdoor Environment - ensure equipment and materials meet quality and quantity in relation to the group size and ages.

10. Health and Safety - over and above minimum standards. This focus is on the children's safety and health.

11. Nutrition and Meal Time - a mixture of social and self-help skills.

12. Parental Involvement - effective partnerships between caregivers and staff in promoting the well being of the child.

Texas Rising Star Website:
http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/childcare/provcert.pdf

For information on the Texas Rising Star program please call:
(210) 206-5403, and ask to speak to a Provider Specialist.
Rural counties call: (210) 362-5313 or 1-800-204-7905

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