



## **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 Registered Family Homes.
- The Star requirements are based upon Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) in Early Childhood Programs serving children birth through age eight.

### **What is required to become a Texas Rising Star?**

- You must be a CCS Regulated Provider.
- You must be on a Plan 2 or Plan 3 with the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (TDFPS)
- The Director and /or staff will need to 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 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. The self-assessment forms will be used during this visit.
- If corrections need to be completed, your 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.
- Consultation is available from your Provider Specialist to achieve the quality and maintain your Star requirements.
- Monitoring visits will be conducted throughout the assessment period.

# Summary of the Certification Requirements

1. **Licensing Compliance**-meet Minimum Standards for Child Care Licensing.
2. **Director Qualifications for Licensed Centers.** This does not apply for Registered Family Homes or Licensed 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 20 clock hours of training annually and 25 clock hours for the director.
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 help children's self-esteem; promote respect for individual differences and 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.

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