



Cuyahoga County  
Together We  
Thrive

# REACHING FOR THE STARS

Searching for quality child care in Cuyahoga

Cuyahoga Job and Family  
Services

Is your child ready for a child care setting?

How your child spends their day from birth until school matters in their education and development

We are here to help you choose a quality program that best fits your child's individual needs as well as the needs of your family

## What is a child care program?

Child care is administering to the needs of infants, toddlers, preschool-age children and school-age children in a place outside of the child's home.

Cuyahoga County provides assistance for child care in licensed programs such as family child care and center based programs.

# What is Step Up To Quality (SUTQ)?

Step Up To Quality was designed to assist you in finding quality programs that go beyond minimum standards when providing child care for children.

These programs demonstrate higher levels of quality in their settings. Higher levels of quality produce improved learning and development outcomes for young children.





Step Up To Quality programs receive additional funding and marketing material.

## How do you determine a program's level of quality?

- ★ Step Up To Quality is a five-star quality rating and improvement system
- ★ Each star defines a different level of quality
- ★ The higher the star, the higher the quality

# What are some of the benefits of a star rated program?

## Star Rated Programs will have...

-  Highly trained teachers, with credentials and higher education degrees such as the CDA and college degrees
-  A focus on the development of school readiness skills and meeting early learning and development standards
-  A commitment to continuous improvement in programming and professional development
-  A focus on family engagement

How can higher quality help my child?

**When programs take the time to increase their quality it has a positive effect on the children they teach and their families.**

Your child's growth and development is better supported.

Both your child and the environment are assessed to find ways to support and improve

Learning goals for your child are created

Families are involved in the child's learning progress

Does it cost more to place my child in a high quality, star rated program?

Cuyahoga County recognizes that your child deserves the best care possible. We support national research that shows what standards lead to improved outcomes for your child.

Your child care benefits can be utilized at any star rated program. We encourage you to consider all factors when placing your child in a child care setting.



# How do I find a star rated program near me?

There are many ways to find a star rated program near you

**Look for the Step Up To Quality logos displayed at participating programs**



**Ask your child care benefits worker for Step Up To Quality program information.**

**Visit the ODJFS website: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/childcare.stm>**

**Starting Point Child Care Resource & Referral 216-575-0061**

**[Cuyahogakids.org](http://Cuyahogakids.org)**



