

# Be Your Child's Voice

Remember that 80% of brain development occurs before age 4, so it is really important that you continue to stay involved with your child's care. By staying involved you will greatly increase the chances that your child will get the highest level of care possible, which matters during this critical period of brain development.

## It's as easy as ABC:

### A Ask Questions

Talk to your child's teacher and the director of the child care program about what is happening in the classroom.

### B Be There

Stop by the program to learn more about how the program works – and don't forget to talk to your child about his or her day!

### C Create Improvements

Texas Rising Star Certified Providers are committed to quality improvement in their programs – ask how you can help!

Please visit

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

for more information about how you can select a high-quality program for your child.



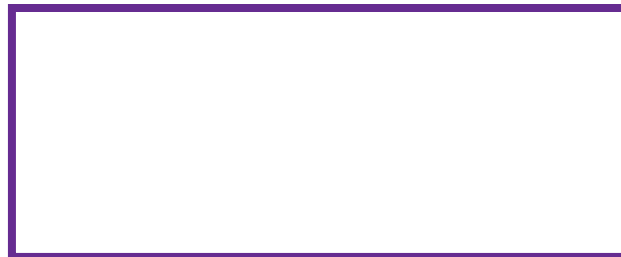
Across Texas, parents and families enroll their children in child care programs, including center-based and home-based programs. Numerous research studies have shown that children who attend higher quality child care programs are more prepared for school than other children.



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



For more information, contact your local workforce development board at:



Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Relay Texas: 800-735-2989 (TTY) and 711 (Voice).



Choose the Texas Rising Star Certified Provider That's Right for Your Family!

# TRS Categories

# Help Your Child's Readiness for Success

# Selecting Quality Child Care

Texas Rising Star Certified Providers are committed to quality improvement in their programs. Providers that voluntarily achieve TRS provider certification offer quality care that exceeds the State's Minimum Child Care Licensing Standards in the five categories:

## Category 1: Director and Staff Qualifications and Training

- Director qualifications and training
- Caregiver qualifications, orientation and training
- Caregiver qualifications and training

## Category 2: Caregiver-Child Interactions

- Group size
- Staff ratios

- Warm and responsive style
- Language facilitation and support
- Play-based interactions and guidance
- Support for children's regulation

## Category 3: Curriculum

- Lesson plans and curriculum
- Planning for special needs and respecting diversity
- Instructional formats and approaches to learning

## Category 4: Nutrition and Indoor/Outdoor Activities

- Nutrition
- Indoor learning environments
- Outdoor learning environments

## Category 5: Parent Education and Involvement




- Parent education
- Parent involvement

## Texas Rising Star is . . .

A voluntary, quality-based child care rating system of child care providers participating in the Texas Workforce Commission's subsidized child care program.

## Texas Rising Star Certified Providers

All Texas Rising Star Certified Providers have a star rating – higher quality programs have a higher star rating. The new logo indicates which level has been met by the child care providers participating in the TWC subsidized CCS program. The new logo system will make it easier for parents to choose a child care provider with advanced level of certification.

-  2 Star level - exceeds minimum licensing requirements in all five categories
-  3 Star level - meets high-quality standards in all five categories
-  4 Star level - meets highest standards of quality in all five categories



In Texas, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) regulates all child care programs. It is critically important that families choose licensed, regulated child care programs. Visit the HHSC website [txchildcaresearch.org](http://txchildcaresearch.org) to search for a licensed child care program in Texas.

Many child care programs, including Texas Rising Star Certified Providers, choose to exceed the state's minimum licensing standards by providing higher quality learning environments for the children in their programs.

## Steps for Selecting Child Care

1. Begin your search for child care. Things to consider:

- Age of your child(ren)
- Need full-time, part-time, or irregular time (evening hours) care
- Access to public transportation, if needed

2. Determine your budget.

How much can you spend on child care each month? Visit your local Workforce Solution's office to see if your family qualifies for a child care subsidy.

3. Learn about the different types of child care. There are a number of options for child care, including Texas Rising Star Certified Providers.

4. Be a savvy shopper.

Once you find a program that meets your needs, think about the quality of the program. If you've selected a Texas Rising Star Certified Provider, you know that your child will be attending a higher quality child care program that is dedicated to helping your child succeed.