



Dear Parents,

We're celebrating five years of Step Up to Quality! Because we participate in the Step Up to Quality program, your little one is among the thousands of other children in Nebraska who are experiencing all the benefits quality early childhood education has to offer. High five to you!

Research shows that kids in quality early childhood education programs:

- 1 | Reach developmental milestones early or on time
- 2 | Build emotional intelligence
- 3 | Show improved reading skills
- 4 | Have better math skills in elementary school (it's true!)
- 5 | Are prepared for the next educational step

Those are just five ways quality early childhood education helps kids — there are many more!

We are marking this milestone with some special activities, so stay tuned!

If you want to know more about Step Up to Quality, I've attached a frequently asked questions sheet to this letter, but you can also visit their website at StepUpToQuality.ne.gov where you can sign up for their e-newsletter, which has great parenting tips included and is sent out every month. Follow them on social media, where you'll see other child care centers celebrating, too!

Thank you for partnering with us to encourage growth and development in your child. It's our honor to take care of your precious little one!

PARENT FAQ RESOURCE



What is Step Up to Quality?

Step Up to Quality is the State of Nebraska's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS).

What is a QRIS?

A QRIS helps states assess, improve and communicate the level of quality of early childhood programs. Programs are awarded quality ratings for meeting a defined set of program standards.

Is Step Up to Quality required for licensed child care programs?

Step Up to Quality is voluntary for most early childhood programs. Programs who receive more than \$250,000 in child care subsidies are required to participate. Regardless, if your child care program is participating in Step Up to Quality, you can be assured they are going above and beyond to ensure the safety and growth of the children in their care.

How much does it cost for child care providers to participate in Step Up to Quality?

Step Up to Quality is not only free for child care providers, they can receive financial incentives! Step Up to Quality is funded through the Nebraska Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services. We are proud that the State of Nebraska is investing in our future through this important program.

What does it mean when a child care provider is participating in Step Up to Quality?

A child care provider enrolled in Step Up to Quality is demonstrating a commitment to best practices in early childhood education.

Want to know more about Step Up to Quality? Visit our website at StepUpToQuality.ne.gov — you can get more details on the provider rating tools and more.