

## **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 through out 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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