



Quality Awards wrap-up in 2015

For providers that have been part of the Quality Award program, please note that this program will end in December 2015. As we approach the end of the Quality Award grant period, it is imperative that all funds that have been awarded to the early care and education community are reconciled with the Department of Human Services.

To close-out these awards, please note the following timeline:

- Quality Awards will end on December 31, 2015. The December Monthly Request form is due on January 15, 2016. The December payment will be processed by the end of January and will be the final payment.
- The final Quality Award Summary Report is due by March 15, 2016. ALL award funds must be spent and reported by March 15, 2016. Any unreported or unused funds will need to be returned to the Department of Human Services.

If you have any questions, concerns, or to obtain a balance please call Colleen Masterson at 462-6868 or Colleen.Masterson@dhs.ri.gov.



Save The Date

Dec 16: Data ELC mtg, 9:30-11:00 am, Child and Family, 1268 Eddy St, Providence

May 7, 2017: RIAEYC 50th Early Childhood Conference, Crowne Plaza, Warwick

Rising Star Award Reminder

The Department of Human Services continues to award Rising Star Awards to programs that join*, move-up or convert (at any star level) from the 2009 BrightStars standards to the 2013 standards.

The time-limited program will recognize programs that join BrightStars at a star level two or higher, and those that apply for and receive a higher star rating and/or convert to the 2013 standards. Programs that join, convert standards, or increase their star rating between June 1, 2015 and December 15, 2015 are eligible for an award. Programs that convert will be awarded the amount at their overall star rating level on the 2013 standards.

[Click here](#) for the application and additional information. Call [Deborah Anthes](#) at DHS for additional information at (401)462-6842. Applications are to be returned to the Department of Human Services.

	1 Star*	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star
	<i>*Conversion only</i>	Join, Convert, Move up			
Centers/Public Schools	\$500	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000
FCC	\$500	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000

Spotlight: Dr. Daycare Smithfield

In 2015, Dr. Day Care in Smithfield Rhode Island completed modifications to two preschool classrooms as a result of Rhode Island’s updated center-based child care program regulations for licensure. At first, the program felt that meeting these improvement requirements was daunting without any funding resources. With the launch of program quality improvement grants and LISC technical assistance, Dr. Day Care Smithfield was able to purchase new four-foot tall furniture to separate the two preschool classrooms. This simple renovation was a way for the program to rearrange the rooms without doing costly plumbing construction, disruption to the children, staff and families.

The early childhood teachers in these classrooms are really enjoying the split preschool rooms! They are now working with smaller groups of children because of the four-foot partition rather than a floor to ceiling wall; the teachers are able to communicate with each other over the top of the divider if any needs arise. The teachers have spent an impressive amount of time being thoughtful about the design of their new classrooms spaces and daily seeing how the physical environment is enhancing the children’s learning.

Below is a before and after photo of the preschool classrooms:



BEFORE



AFTER

BrightStars Participation

The Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Education (RIDE) continue to reach out to early learning and education providers to encourage participation in BrightStars. If you have any questions about your program’s participation, do not hesitate to connect with BrightStars at (401)739-6100.

The chart below represents the total number of programs enrolled in BrightStars on November 30, 2015. The total number of early learning and education programs operating as of January 1, 2015 is 916; that represents 552 family child care providers, 311 center-based programs, and 53 public schools.



BrightStars Rated Programs

	2015 BrightStars Enrollment Goal	ACTUAL (as of November 30, 2015)
1 Star	458	434
2 Star	183	179
3 Star	138	50
4 Star	73	51
5 Star	64	17
TOTAL	916	731
% OF GOAL	100%	80%



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