



7 Great Reasons for New York to Invest in

QUALITYstarsNY

QUALITYstarsNY is a system designed for early care and learning programs* to better inform families about quality and, at the same time, improve program quality. It is crucial for New York to invest in high-quality early learning and better outcomes for all of our kids.

- 1. The first five years are crucial for all children.** 75% of brain growth and 85% of intellect, personality and social skills develop before age 5. The learning that takes place during these years forms the foundation for success.
- 2. Quality increases equity.** The difference in academic skills between high- and low-income students is large and growing. Participation in high-quality early learning can close the achievement gap.
- 3. Quality promotes school success and lowers subsequent school costs.** Children who participate in higher-quality child care and pre-K have better math skills, fewer behavior problems, less need for remediation, higher test scores measuring cognitive and academic achievement, and are less likely to engage in problem behaviors as teenagers.
- 4. Low quality has adverse impacts.** Numerous national studies have documented extremely wide variation in quality. The largest national study to date found that 26% of infant care settings exhibited moderately or highly insensitive care-giving and 75% were minimally or not at all stimulating.
- 5. Quality saves taxpayer dollars.** Every \$1 invested in high quality early care and education saves as much as \$7 to \$14 by reducing the need for remedial and special education, juvenile justice and welfare support.
- 6. Participation in high-quality early learning cuts crime.** Long-term studies of two well-known high quality preschool programs found that at-risk children left out of the high-quality program were more likely to commit crimes later in life than children who did attend.
- 7. Quality is good for the early care and learning workforce.** QUALITYstarsNY promotes professional development, providing support for child care providers/teachers/programs.

* Center-based child care, home-based child care, Head Start, Pre-K, etc.



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