



Dear { Name of Program} Families,

We are excited to announce that {name of program} is participating in the Kern Early Stars program, our county's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). So, what is a QRIS? A QRIS is a method to assess, improve and communicate the level of quality in early care and education programs. Currently, 75% of all counties in California are participating in QRIS along with 44 other states implementing a quality rating and improvement system. This supports what we have always known; quality Early Childhood Education is important!

As a Kern Early Stars participant, we have made a commitment to raise quality improvement, to go beyond minimum licensing standards, and provide the best early learning experiences for your children. Over the course of the next year, we will begin the process of setting quality improvement goals in the areas of: children's health and development, interactions between adults and children, safe and age appropriate environments, low child to adult ratios, training and education for our staff, and developmentally appropriate learning experiences that support school readiness.

Kern Early Stars has provided an Early Learning Coach to support us with training, workshops, materials, and coaching to begin to make gradual changes to the overall quality of our program. The result of that hardwork will be a star rating that indicates a baseline measurement. That initial rating will include a report card that will show how we've scored in each area. Over the next three years we will use the report card to continue to set goals and make improvements to the quality care we offer our children and families. As you can see, that's a lot of work, but we are up to the challenge!

One of the most important keys to our success will be family involvement. As we work through the QRIS process, our hope is that you will partner with us on this journey. We will ask for your thoughts on your child's experience with us. Our site will host information nights to keep you informed of our progress and gather your feedback throughout the year. Your opinion is very important because it will help to guide us as we make decisions.

Throughout the QRIS process, you will begin to see changes here at _____. On occasion we will have visitors to our facility and there may be changes to our classrooms, policy and procedures. We believe that all of these positive changes will benefit the children who attend here and help them be successful in their education journey. Please let us know if you have any specific questions about this new process. We are looking forward to working with you and all that we will accomplish together!

