



Step Up To Quality Info Session



What is Step Up To Quality?

- Voluntary quality rating system for ODJFS licensed centers
- Recognizes three progressively higher levels of program quality building on Ohio's health and safety licensing requirements
- Provides supports and awards to assist programs in achieving and maintaining a star-rating



What are the Goals?

- ★ Improve the quality of early care and education settings in order to support children's optimal development and learning.
- ★ Provide parents with an easy to use tool to assist them in selecting quality early care and education programs for their children.



History

- 1998:** Oklahoma implements the first statewide Quality Rating System (now in more than 14 states)
- 1999-2000:** In Ohio, a Public/Private Partnership including 60 stakeholders develops initial criteria
- 2003:** Build Ohio identifies Step Up To Quality as a high priority – work begins on policies and procedures
- 2005:** Pilot implementation begins in 9 counties
- 2006:** Additional funding is secured and statewide implementation announced
- 2007:** Statewide implementation moves forward



Partners

- ★ Ohio Department of Job & Family Services,
Bureau of Child Care & Development
- ★ OCCRRA - Ohio Child Care Resource &
Referral Association
- ★ Build Ohio
- ★ Ohio Department of Education,
Office of Early Learning & School Readiness



How can a quality rating system support children's development & learning?



- ★ Clearly defines the research-based elements of quality
- ★ Provides targeted supports and resources to improve program quality system-wide
- ★ Informs parents and the public about the importance of quality programs
- ★ Recognizes programs that achieve higher levels of quality



Program Eligibility

- ★ Currently, programs must be ODJFS licensed centers
- ★ Programs must not have received a letter of intent to revoke the child care license in the past 48 months



What is Emerging Stars?

- Emerging Stars is a program to help centers put systems in place to ensure compliance with the Serious Risk non-compliances
- A strong foundation of compliance with health and safety is the critical base on which to build high quality

What is a Star Rating?

- Star Rated programs have demonstrated compliance with the serious risk non-compliances
- Three levels of quality above Ohio's minimum licensing standards have been identified as Step 1, Step 2 and Step 3



Benchmarks

- Ratio and Group Size
- Staff Education and Qualifications
- Specialized Training
- Administrative Practices
- Early Learning



Ratio and Group Size

Ratio and group size are reduced as programs move upward from licensing standards

Alternative Pathway to meeting ratio requirements for Step 2 and Step 3 is available for programs

★ Programs that are Nationally Accredited by one of the accepted accrediting bodies:

NAEYC - NACCP

NAA - NECPA

OR

★ Achieve an overall average score of 5 on Environmental Rating Scales may meet ratios and group size requirements of the previous step



Staff Education and Qualifications

- ★ Education qualifications exceed licensing requirements for administrator(s) lead teachers and assistant teachers
- ★ Indicators can be met by achieving Career Pathways Level 2 or 3 on the Ohio Professional Development Professional Career Pathways Model (www.ohpdnetwork.org)

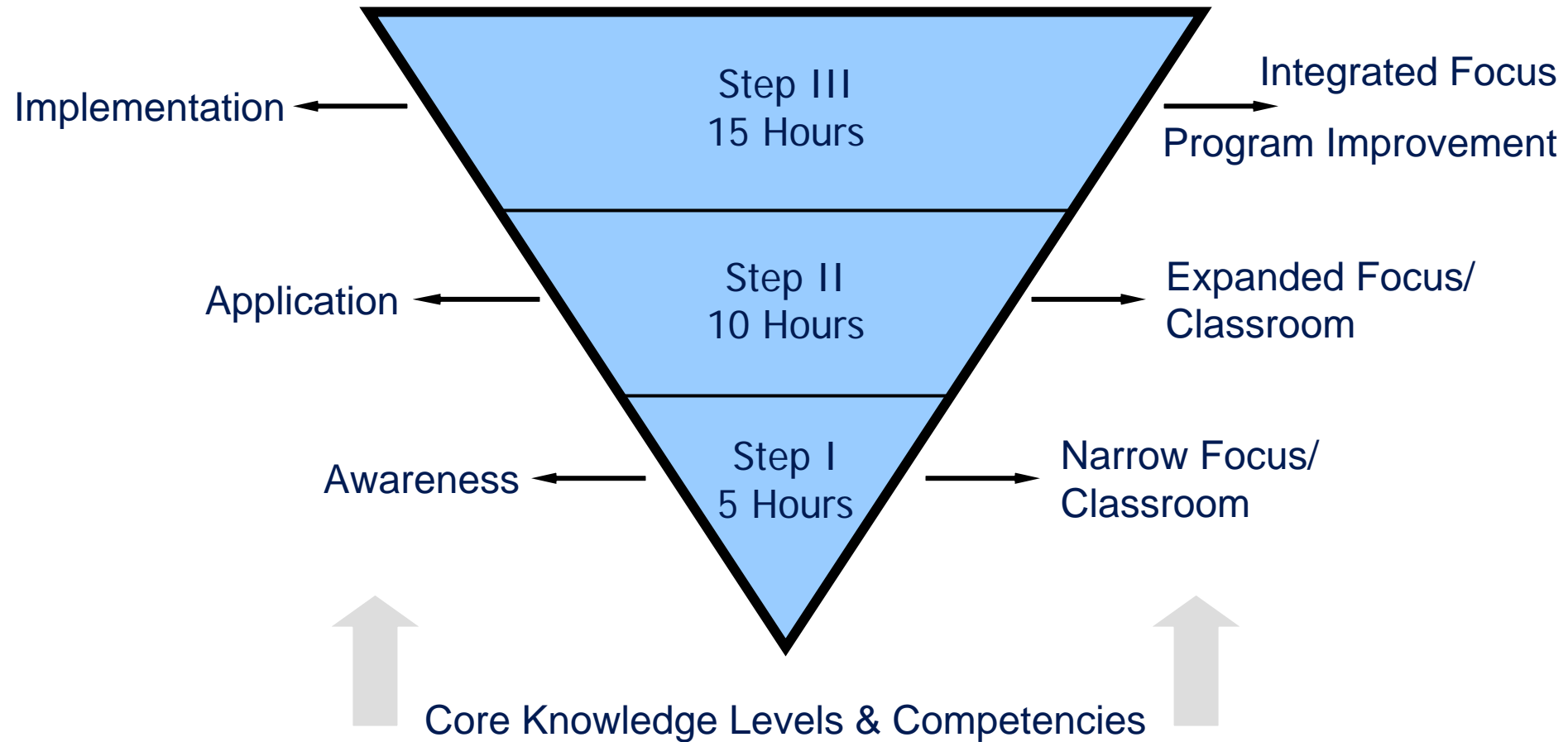


Star Training

- ★ **Specialized** – provides the support and knowledge to programs to assist in the implementation of the Early Learning benchmarks
- ★ **Targeted** – to administrators and lead and assistant teachers
- ★ **Approved** – by ODJFS specifically for Step Up To Quality
- ★ **Relevant** – to administrators and teachers for the age group(s) and/or their job responsibilities



Training Progression



Specialized Training

- ★ A commitment to ongoing Professional Development is demonstrated through the completion of annual training
- ★ Training is assessed with the following criteria:
 - ★ Date of hire
 - ★ Position
 - ★ Program level



Administrative Practices

- ★ Program Planning and Evaluation
 - ★ Complete Program Administration Scale (PAS)
- ★ Human Resource Development
 - ★ Complete Professional Development Plan for administrators, lead teachers and assistant teachers
- ★ Benefits and Compensation
 - ★ Program offers 1, 2 or 3 benefits based on the program level



Early Learning

- Builds on the foundation of the Infant and Toddler Guidelines, Early Learning Content Standards, Ohio's Early Learning Program Guidelines and K – 12 Program Guidelines
- Align curriculum and planning with age appropriate standards/guidelines and utilize development screenings
- Integrates ongoing child assessment utilizing classroom assessment tools and action plans



Supports

■ Technical Assistance

- For Emerging Star Programs
- Local Resource and Referral Staff
- Step Up To Quality Licensing Specialists

■ T.E.A.C.H.

- Star Rated programs are eligible for Scholarships

■ Quality Achievement Awards

- Financial reward for achieving higher levels of quality above minimum licensing
 - 25% of reward used for critical repair, classroom improvement and early learning resources



Keeping a Star-rating

- Maintain compliance with Benchmark Indicators
- Maintain compliance with identified Serious Risk
- See complete listing of Serious Risk Non-compliances at www.stepuptoquality.org
- Non-compliance can result in suspension or removal of star-rating



Child Care Resource & Referral

OCCRRA

- ★ Manages web-based Professional Registry
- ★ Manages T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Ohio scholarship and compensation program
- ★ Manages and processes Quality Achievement Awards
- ★ Works to develop and distribute marketing materials, coordinates and integrates efforts of specialists in the field



Child Care Resource & Referral

Local CCR&R agencies

- ★ Provide general information on SUTQ
- ★ Assist programs in securing approved training
- ★ Conduct environmental assessments for Emerging Stars
- ★ Provide technical assistance to Emerging Stars



Marketing Materials

Star Rated programs will receive:

- ★ Step Up To Quality Banner
- ★ Media Kit which contains letters for media and legislators, print materials for parents
- ★ Recognition of 3 Star Centers at the Accreditation/SUTQ luncheon at the annual Early Care and Education Conference



Information

www.stepuptoquality.org

- ★ SUTQ Benchmarks and Indicators for each star rating
- ★ Guidance Document - detailed information on policies and procedures
- ★ Application Form
- ★ Quality Achievement Awards
- ★ Who to Call When – a listing of commonly asked questions, plus local and state contact information
- ★ Serious Risk Rules – complete listing
- ★ Early Learning Training
- ★ Evidence Binder Sample Forms
- ★ Parent Information





Thanks for Stepping Up!

