

## *What is SWFL Stars?*

Southwest Florida Stars is a **voluntary** Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) used to improve and communicate the level of quality in early childhood programs. SWFL Stars rates child care centers and family child care homes through a process of site visits and off-site data collection, resulting in a 1 to 5 star rating.



## *How can a Child Care Provider participate in SWFL Stars?*

Child Care Providers that are current School Readiness or VPK Providers can complete an application, available for download on the ELC of SWFL website

[www.elcofswfl.org](http://www.elcofswfl.org)

or contact Kristi Biffar,  
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SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
**Stars**

*Quality  
Rating  
Improvement  
System*



*Nurturing the young children  
of Southwest Florida and  
those who care for them!*

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## *How will a Child Care facility be evaluated?*

Child care facilities that choose to participate in Southwest Florida Stars are evaluated on three quality categories:

- Learning Environment and Classroom Interactions
- Screening, Assessment and Curriculum
- Professional Development and Staff Qualifications
- Bonus points awarded for maintaining specific ratio and group size and achieving specified accreditation



## *Why should Child Care Providers participate in SWFL Stars?*

- Child care providers that participate in SWFL Stars will be easily recognized for their quality services by their star rating.
- They will be supported in their continuing efforts to provide excellence in child care services.
- Parents will have a simple way of learning about the quality of Child Care Providers, so they can make the best choices for their children.



## *What are the benefits?*

- Free program quality assessments
- Specialized trainings for providers
- On-site, personalized support provided by ELC Early Childhood Specialists
- Specialized trainings for Directors
- Access to educational scholarships
- Discounted CEUs
- Quality improvement resources
- Memberships to professional early childhood organizations
- Community recognition

## *Why should parents look for a program participating in SWFL Stars to enroll their child?*

Child Care Providers who participate in SWFL Stars:

- Provide safe and welcoming environments
- Understand that learning begins at birth
- Offer a variety of appropriate activities through which children learn and grow
- Engage children in fun, “hands- on” learning experiences
- Involve parents and families as their child’s first teacher
- Are dedicated to offering the best in quality child care
- Are involved in the on-going evaluation of their program
- Are committed to program improvement
- Are knowledgeable in early child education best practices

