



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 high-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.



Shaping New York State public policy for people in need since 1872