

# Vermont STARS a parent's first step

[stars.vermont.gov](http://stars.vermont.gov)

Here, you'll find guidance for parents and a searchable database of Vermont STARS providers that includes program information, services offered, accreditations and availability by age group. A perfect start as you narrow down your options and create your short list of providers to visit.

And on your provider visits, when you see the Vermont STARS logo displayed, you'll know (with just a glance) that the program:

- ▶ Meets quality standards for education, staff training, facilities, environment, and curriculum.
- ▶ Is striving to be their best.
- ▶ Is professionally run, creating a stable, smooth day-to-day environment



# Start your childcare search



Visit [stars.vermont.gov](http://stars.vermont.gov)  
Learn more about STARS and search for provider programs by location, availability and curriculum.

To find your local agency visit [dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/cccsa](http://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/cccsa) or call the Child Development Division at **1-800-649-2642**



# For brighter childcare decisions

A guide for parents



# The childcare question

# The benefits of Vermont STARS

# Parent's top 10 questions for providers



It's one of the most important—and sometimes most difficult—decision parents of young children have to make.

Having another person care for your child fills even the most confident parent with questions.

### But you know what's best for your child.

And, armed with the right information, know you'll find a place that meets your quality standards.

### That's why Vermont STARS was created.

To answer some of the basic questions and give Vermont parents the information they need to make brighter childcare decisions.

**Informed decisions** Vermont STARS is a quality standards program that works with parents to inform confident decisions about childcare. The more stars a program has, the more it is involved in a wide range of practices that support children, families, and professionals.

**Empowered providers** Working with providers, we help ensure measured quality in staff, program practices and facilities across the state to create standards they can be proud of.

**A better Vermont** Vermont STARS works with providers and parents to maintain and continually improve the quality of childcare across Vermont. Working to create a bright future for all Vermont families.

**Financial benefits** You may qualify for a tax credit on Vermont state income tax if you meet income guidelines and use specific Vermont STARS programs. Parents who receive child care financial assistance and use Vermont STARS programs receive higher benefits. (Paid directly to providers on your behalf.)

1. Is the provider and staff nurturing and responsive to me and my child?
2. Is the classroom and outdoor space safe?
3. Are children supervised at all times?
4. How many children are cared for by the provider?
5. What is the guidance policy of the program?
6. What does the daily routine of the program look like?
7. What does the program use as a curriculum?
8. What training and experience do the provider or staff have?
9. How does the program incorporate parents?
10. Has the program had any licensing issues?

For a deeper look at these questions and more, visit [stars.vermont.gov](http://stars.vermont.gov)

