

Look for the Stars Update

Fall 2009

The second year of assessments is behind us and participating providers have had time to absorb the results. What can be said definitively at this point is that **quality of care in our community overall has improved** – and that is cause for celebration.

What the Data Shows

In year 1 there were 67 sites with a star level of 1 or 2. In year 2 this number dropped to 44. The sites with a 3 star or higher increased in year 2 to 100 total from 65 the prior year. More importantly, within the same group of sites that were assessed and participated in both years 1 and 2, 48 sites increased their star level, with 38 maintaining their 3 star level or higher. Although 23 sites dropped a star level, only 3 decreased below a 3 star level, the level considered to be providing consistently good quality.

Another indisputable finding is that **training made a difference** – providers who attended the ECERS training series did significantly better on average than those providers who did not have directors or teachers at trainings. **Family providers who attended the FCCERS training made remarkable gains.** The Environment Rating Scales are comprehensive assessment tools and understanding the domains, specific items and the inter-related nature of the tools is clearly an advantage.

The data also showed a disappointing result – that **sustaining quality at a 4 or 5 star level can be challenging.** Several providers at that level had a drop in their ERS score. The Coalition encourages all providers to attend trainings and to request targeted assistance from the Look for the Stars mentors.

A troubling trend from the first year that has been maintained into the second year is that **infant and toddler classrooms continue to score lower** than preschool classrooms. Despite concerted efforts and initiatives on infant and toddler care over the past few years, work clearly remains to be done to ensure quality care for this age group. Knowing the critical importance of loving, responsive, and stimulating care during this crucial period of development, the Coalition is again offering a range of trainings focusing on this age group, including a series on the ITERS and 2 training series on infant and toddler curriculum - Beyond Cribs and Rattles and the Creative Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers. This issue is so important that the Coalition is considering offering payments to recognize providers who make meaningful improvements in their ITERS scores next year.

Reminders and Information

Mini-Grant applications will be sent out in the next few weeks. The goal is for providers to identify what is needed to strengthen weak areas and have enough time to get materials in place before assessments begin in February. Remember, to be eligible for mini-grants and targeted training and assistance the **Quality Improvement Action Plan (QIAP)** must be completed and turned in. The QIAP template is posted on the Coalition website and is simple and straight forward. Any provider that needs assistance filling it out should contact a Look for the Stars mentor.

Consultation is available to teachers and directors on **professional development.** Information and assistance on applying for a **Coalition Scholarships** is also available on request. A reminder that at this time there is no wait list for **T.E.A.C.H** scholarships.

Providers will be given an opportunity to **post information on the Look for the Stars website** to share with parents. This is a chance for providers to briefly describe one or two unique qualities, state their teaching philosophy or highlight particular achievements. A form will be emailed for providers to return to the Coalition.

Sustaining payments will be sent out in the next couple of weeks and will be comparable to last year, although with a differential for those sites with a higher percentage of School Readiness Scholarship children.

Results from the **wage scale survey** are included in the data summary. We thank the 71 providers that completed the form so this information can be shared with our child care community.

The Coalition and Quality Child Care Council feel **tremendous respect** for the **effort and hard work** providers have made to achieve and sustain quality, and applaud the positive results that have been achieved.

Thank you for your participation in the Look for the Stars Initiative!



Look for the Stars Summary of Data 2008 – 2009 Comparisons

Centers, Family Providers, Total

Centers 2008

1 Star -- 8
2 Star -- 25
3 Star -- 26
4 Star -- 26
5 Star -- 3

Opt out -- 3
Total Assessed: 92

Centers 2009

1 Star --4
2 Star -- 19
3 Star -- 46
4 Star -- 30
5 Star -- 0
closed -- 5
Opt out -- 5
Total Assessed: 99

Center Change from 2008- 2009

1 Star: -4
2 Star: -6
3 Star: +20
4 Star: +4
5 Star: -3

Opt out: +2

FCCH 2008

1 star -- 17
2 star -- 17
3 star -- 7
4 star -- 3
5 star -- 0
Opt out -- 0
not assessed -- 9
Total Assessed: 47

FCCH 2009

1 star -- 6
2 star -- 15
3 star -- 19
4 star -- 4
5 star -- 0
Opt out -- 3
not assessed -- 9
Total Assessed: 44

FCCH Changes from 2008- 2009

1 star: -11
2 star: -2
3 star: +12
4 star: +1
5 star: 0
Opt out: +3
not assessed: 0

Ctrs & FCCH 2008

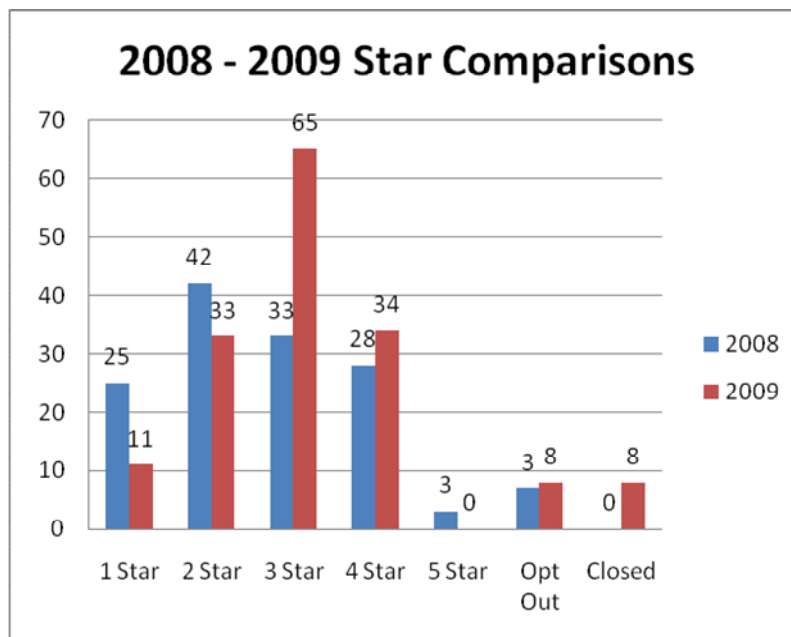
1 Star -- 25
2 Star -- 42
3 Star -- 33
4 Star -- 29
5 Star -- 3
Opt out -- 3

Ctrs & FCCH 2009

1 Star --10
2 Star -- 34
3 Star -- 65
4 Star -- 34
5 Star -- 0
Opt out -- 8

Ctrs & FCCH Changes from 2008 - 2009

1 Star: -15
2 Star: -8
3 Star: +32
4 Star: +5
5 Star: -3
Opt out: +5



Look for the Stars 2009
Summary of Data Year 2 – Centers
Correlation between Training and Star Level

Training Data – Centers 2009
99 Centers assessed

- 47 attended some training on the ERS tool
- 52 attended no training on the tool – training was not a requirement for sites that were 3 Star and above
- 26 Centers **went up** a Star level – **24 attended trainings**
 - 24 attended trainings
 - 7 went up 2 Star levels and all attended 10 or more trainings
 - 1 went up 3 Star levels and attended 9 trainings
 - 2 attended no training
- 21 Centers **went down** a Star level – **16 attended no trainings**
 - 16 attended no training
 - 5 attended an average of 3 trainings each
 - 11 dropped from a 4 Star to a 3 Star, only 3 of these providers attended trainings
 - 2 dropped from a 5 Star to a 4 Star, attended no training
 - 1 dropped from a 5 Star to a 3 Star, attended no training
- 39 Centers **stayed at the same** Star level, although some sites' ERS scores dropped
 - 8 – 2 Star
 - 17 – 3 Star
 - 14 – 4 Star
 - 17 attended training
- 13 Centers assessed for the first time
 - 1 – 1 Star
 - 5 – 2 Star
 - 2 – 3 Star
 - 5 – 4 Star
 - 2 attended training

Look for the Stars 2009
Summary of Data Year 2 – Family Child Care Training
Correlation between Training and Star Level

Training Data – FCCH 2009

44 Family Child Care Homes assessed

- 33 attended some training on the ERS tool
- 11 attended no training on the tool – training was not a requirement for sites that were 3 Star and above
 - 5 new to the QIS, not assessed the first year
 - 1 3 Star and above
 - 2 2 Star
 - 3 1 Star
- 22 FCC Homes **went up** a Star level – **21 attended trainings**
 - 21 attended training
 - 1 attended no training
 - 4 went up 2 Star levels and all attended all (7) trainings
 - 1 went up 3 Star levels and attended 5 trainings
- 3 FCC Homes **went down** a Star level – **1 attended no trainings**
 - 1 attended no training
 - 2 dropped from a 4 Star to a 3 Star, attended 5 or more trainings
 - 1 dropped from a 3 Star to a 2, no training
- 12 FCC Homes **stayed at the same** Star level
 - 3 - 1 Star
 - 3 – 2 Star
 - 5 – 3 Star
 - 1 – 4 Star
 - 6 attended training
- 7 FCC Homes assessed for the first time
 - 2 – 1 Star
 - 4 – 2 Star
 - 1 – 3 Star
 - 3 attended training

Look for the Stars 2009
Summary of Data Year 2 – Wage Scales

Lead Teachers Pay:

Total of 71 centers reporting

\$8 – 9.99/hr	23%	16
\$10 – 12/hr	42%	30
\$12.01 – 15/hr	25%	18
\$15.01 – 18.75/hr	10%	7

Assistant Teacher Pay Range:

Total of 62 centers reporting

\$7.61 – 9.00/hr	45%	28
\$9.01 – 10.00/hr	29%	18
\$10.01 – 12.00/hr	16%	10
\$12.01 – 15.00/hr	10%	6

Director Pay Range:

Total of 66 centers reporting

\$9 – 12.00/hr	12%	8
\$12.01 – 15.00/hr	36%	24
\$15.01 – 20.00 / hr	38%	25
\$20.01 – 26.50/hr	14%	9