

Children's Progress Update: Keystone STAR 3 and 4 programs, 2012-13



Keystone STARS promotes quality improvement among child care and Head Start programs through quality standards and targeted supports. Programs earn a STAR 1 through STAR 4 rating by meeting research-based standards for staff education and professional development, the early learning environment, family engagement practices and business management. Keystone STARS serves children from birth through school-age in every county. As of March 2013, 4,000 child care programs (nearly 65 percent of centers) participate in Keystone STARS, serving nearly 163,000 children.

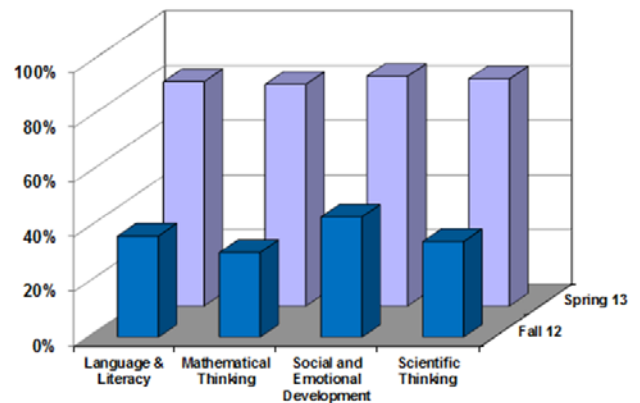
Twenty-two percent of preschoolers are enrolled in Keystone STARS programs.

Department of Public Welfare-certified child care centers and group child care homes, registered family child care homes and Head Start programs are eligible to participate in Keystone STARS. All children regardless of income enrolled in these programs benefit from improved quality as STARS programs move up the STARS ladder. As part of the evidence-based standards of Keystone STAR 3 and 4 programs, teachers assess children's progress throughout the year and use this information to guide classroom instruction and engage families in their children's learning.

The percentage of four-year olds with proficient academic and social skills doubled to 81 percent after participating in Keystone STARS 3 and 4 programs in 2012-13.¹

- The percent of children with proficient **language and literacy** skills increased from 37 percent in the fall to 82 percent in the spring.
- The percent of children with proficient **mathematical thinking skills** increased from 31 percent in the fall to 81 percent in the spring.
- The percent of children with proficient **social and emotional skills** increased from 44 percent in the fall to 84 percent in the spring.
- The percent of children with proficient **scientific thinking skills** increased from 35 percent in the fall to 83 percent in the spring.

Percentage of Four-Year Olds in Keystone STAR 3 and 4 Programs with Proficient Skills, Fall 2012 and Spring 2013



Nearly all (94 percent) parents felt Keystone STAR 3 and 4 programs built on their child's interests and strengths and have used information on their child's performance to support their learning and development at home.²

Not long after our daughter Kassidy entered a Keystone STAR 4 program her teachers noticed that certain words she would say were difficult to understand. The staff provided us with information regarding Early Intervention Services. The speech therapist could come to the program while Kassidy was there and work with her in her school environment. I was extremely impressed with the progress that Kassidy had made. Before

September, when she was to begin Kindergarten, we took her to be evaluated with the speech therapist at the Elementary school. She passed in all areas and did not need to continue with Early Intervention. Nathan & Kimberly W., Centre County

¹ Based on program reports on indicators relevant to Pennsylvania's Early Learning Standards for 4,280 children using an OCDEL-approved authentic assessment tool.

² Based on more than 6,700 responses to a 2011 family survey of families whose children were enrolled in Keystone STAR 3 and 4 centers. 6/11/13