

Rhode Island's Quality Rating System

June 12, 2007



Accomplishments and Next Steps



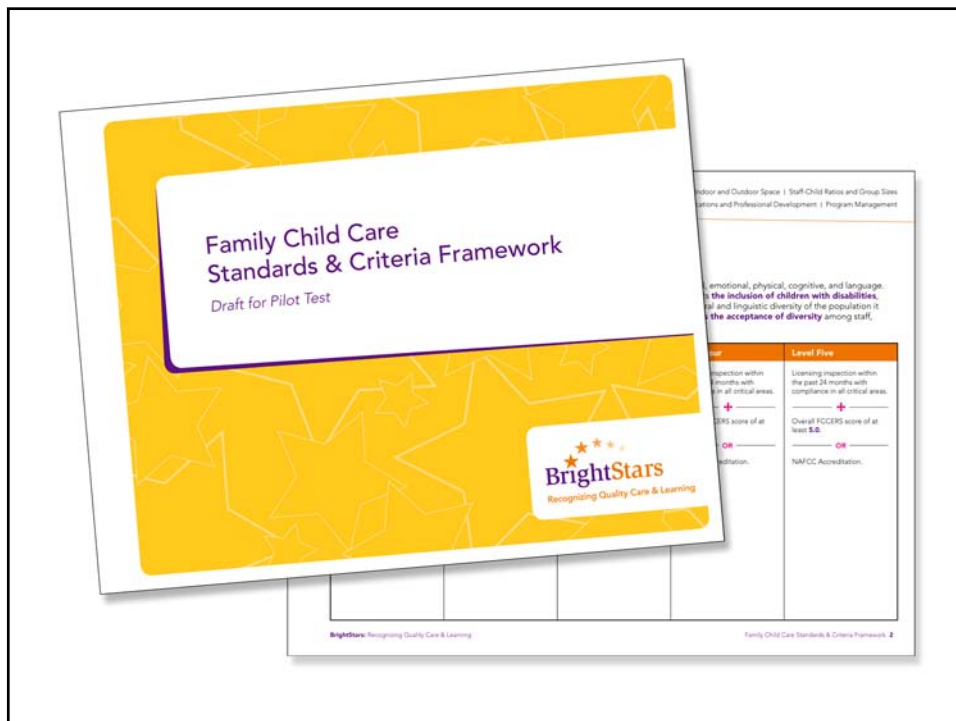
Accomplishments

- Community decision to develop a QRS
- Steering Committee formed
- Goals and guiding principals developed
- Decisions on scope and structure
- United Way of Rhode Island provided funding to develop a QRS
- Parent focus groups held
- Review of national research and other state frameworks



Accomplishments

- Draft of three quality frameworks for Rhode Island (centers, family child care and school-age child care)
- Community, national, and parent review of draft frameworks
- Revised frameworks ready for pilot
- Identified BrightStars name and developed initial branding materials



Information for Providers



BrightStars Quality Rating System in Rhode Island

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BrightStars Quality Rating

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The following types of programs are participating in the pilot:

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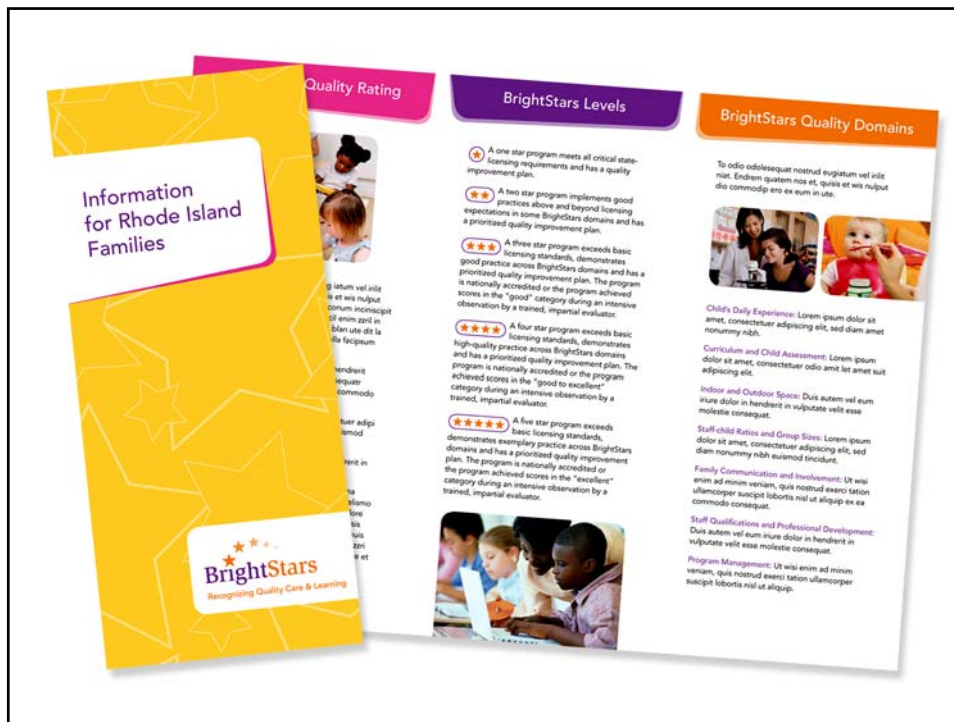
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School-Age Child Care Programs: Ut wis enim ad minim ata veniam, qui rostrud exeroi tation utamcorper saucipi laboris nisl et atloqip. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur halha adipiscing elit.

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Accomplishments

- Secured initial funding for pilot and implementation
- Completed an analysis of existing systems to support quality improvement (professional development, higher education, and other efforts)
- Open search for Implementation Agency
- Support from top national experts to design pilot

Next Steps

- Finalize selection of Implementation Agency and hire/train staff
- Rhode Island KIDS COUNT remains as partner during pilot year
- Hire evaluator
- Finalize design of pilot
- Develop data collection protocols and provider materials
- Recruit programs for pilot



BrightStars Pilot

The purpose of the pilot is to:

- Evaluate the draft quality framework to determine how well it works to sort programs into meaningful quality levels and to serve as the basis for quality improvement
- Collect data to potentially revise the criteria and scoring rules
- Build capacity to gather accurate quality data and establish the rating system statewide



BrightStars Pilot

Initial plans:

- Collect basic quality structure data on a larger number of programs to see where programs fit on the grid
- Conduct intensive site visits to a smaller number of programs with trained Environmental Rating Scale observers
- Examine the relationship between accreditation and specific criteria in the BrightStars framework

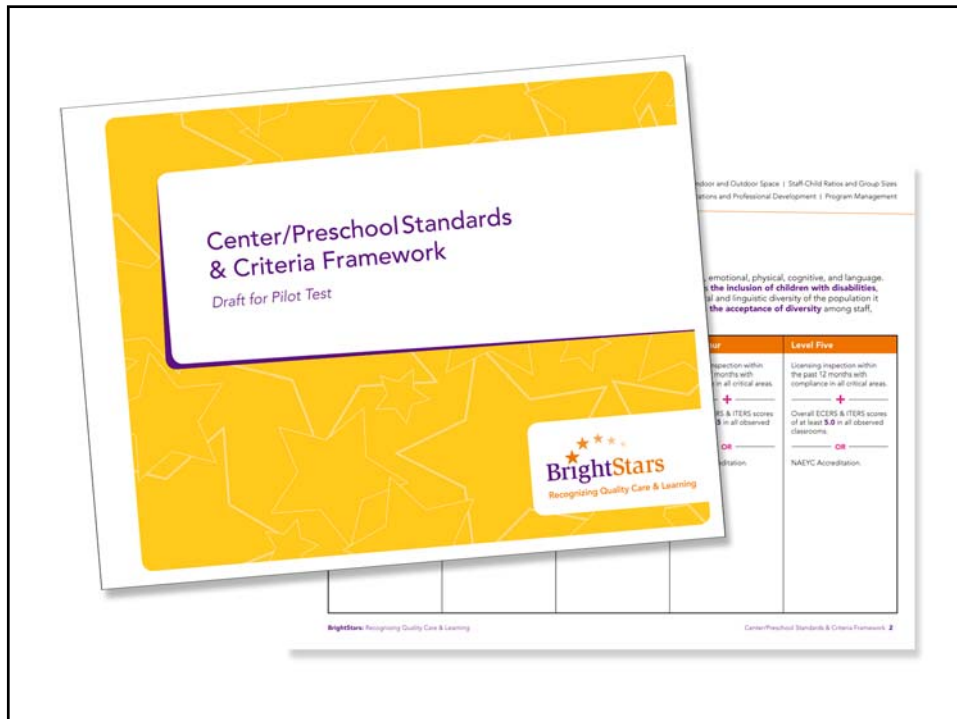


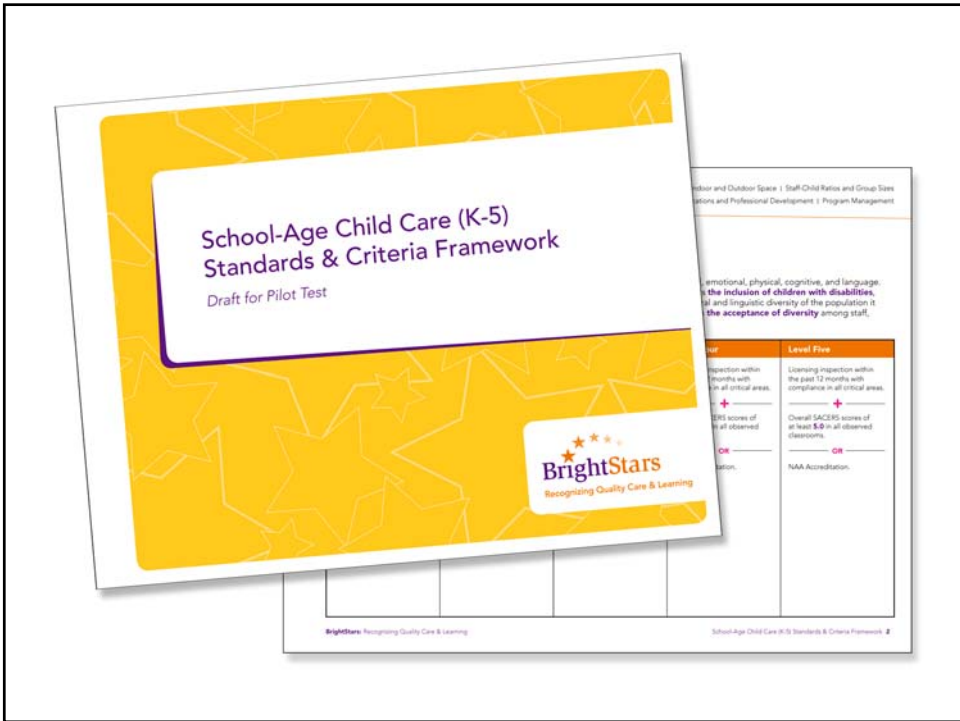
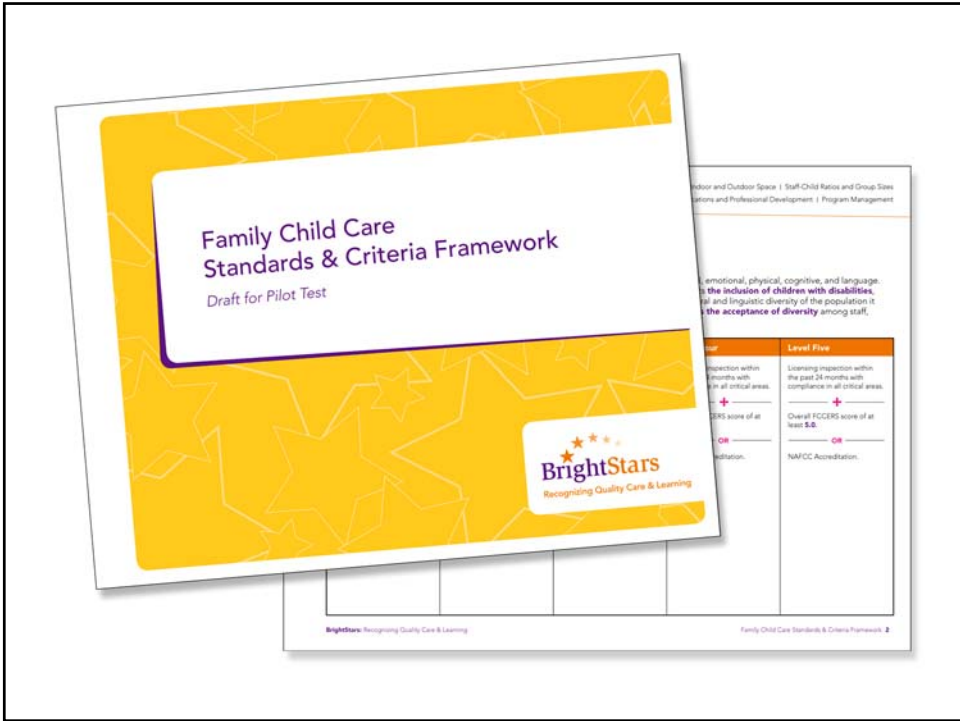
BrightStars Statewide

- Final framework
- Website and provider materials to encourage participation in rating system
- Systems to share quality information with parents (star rating)
- Enhanced resources to improve quality of programs and support professional development
- Incentives and rewards for participation



BrightStars Quality Frameworks





BrightStars Framework

Scope:

- Voluntary rating system
- Resource for all families
- Designed for DCYF licensed child care programs or RIDE approved preschools
- A way for programs to demonstrate they exceed licensing standards and are on a quality improvement path
- A way to track the need for resources and support



BrightStars Framework

Resources used:

- National accreditation standards (NAEYC, NAFCC, NAA)
- National research and quality assessment tools (ERS, Head Start Performance Standards, Strengthening Families, etc.)
- Tools used by local quality improvement resources (PASA, Child Care Facilities Fund, etc.)
- Parent focus groups



BrightStars Framework

Review and revision process:

- Mailed to all licensed programs in August 2006
- Posted on Rhode Island KIDS COUNT web site
- Community Forum in September 2006
- Sent to 10 national experts for feedback
- 2 parent focus groups held
- Meetings with family child care providers, school-age child care providers and centers/preschools



BrightStars Framework

Initial feedback used to refine framework:

- Too many categories
- Environmental Rating Scales in several areas
- After school standards not appropriate for older children and youth
- Are we aiming high enough? (ERS scores, staff education)
- Are we being realistic? (college credits, physical environment)
- Specific recommendations to improve grid



BrightStars Framework

Five levels

- Level One = Licensed/Certified/Approved
- Level Two = Licensing Plus
- Level Three = Consistently Good
- Level Four = Consistently High Quality
- Level Five = Exemplary



BrightStars Framework

Original draft – 11 categories

- Curriculum*
- Health and Safety*
- Staff-Child Interactions*
- Valuing Diversity*
- Physical Environment*
- Child Screening and Assessment
- Family Engagement
- Ratio and Group Size
- Staff & Administrator Credentials
- Staff & Administrator Professional Development
- Program Administration

* Primarily assessed during site visit using Environmental Rating Scale



BrightStars Framework

Revised Draft – 7 Categories

- Child's Daily Experience
- Curriculum and Child Assessment
- Indoor and Outdoor Space
- Staff-Child Ratios and Group Sizes
- Family Communication and Involvement
- Staff Qualifications and Professional Development
- Program Management



BrightStars Framework

Child's Daily Experience

- Staff-child interactions
- Health and safety practices
- Activities, routines and structure
- Learning opportunities
- Materials available and environment



BrightStars Framework

Child's Daily Experience

Centers/Preschools

- Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS)
- Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS)
- NAEYC Accreditation

Family Child Care

- Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS)
- NAFCC Accreditation

School-Age Child Care (K-5)

- School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS)
- NAA Accreditation



BrightStars Framework

Structural quality indicators – such as curriculum, assessment systems, staff education, professional development, ratios, group size, program management practices, etc. – support high quality daily experiences for children



BrightStars Framework

Curriculum and Child Assessment

- Written curriculum
- Curriculum aligned with Rhode Island Early Learning Standards (programs serving children ages 3 to K entry)
- Developmental screening for children under age 6
- Child assessment systems and individualized learning plans



BrightStars Framework

Indoor and Outdoor Space

- Environmental toxin safety
- Amount of indoor space
- Amount of safe outdoor space
- Natural light
- Location of bathrooms
- Group dividers
- Program security



BrightStars Framework

Staff-Child Ratios and Group Sizes

- Ratios align with licensing standards - bump up at Level 5 for centers and school-age
- Group size follows national guidelines starting at Level 2 - corresponding bump up at Level 5.
- Need to review new family child care certification standards for staffing and enrollment during pilot year to determine BrightStars standards
- Informed families
- Staffing patterns ensure coverage



BrightStars Framework

Family Communication and Involvement

- Multiple methods of communication
- Linguistic competence
- Multiple opportunities for family involvement



BrightStars Framework

Staff Qualifications and Professional Development

- Education credentials of lead group staff, family child care provider and administrators
- College credits in the field
- Rhode Island Early Learning Standards training
- First Aid/CPR training
- Annual professional development in focused areas



BrightStars Framework

Program Management

- Staff compensation and benefits
- Planning and preparation time
- Financial management and health
- Continuous quality improvement

