

First Friends is proud to be a PA Keystone STARS level 4 facility



What is Keystone STARS?

[Keystone STARS](#) is a tool to help you understand the quality of an early learning program. Administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Keystone STARS is a voluntary program that awards different levels of performance from a [STAR 1 to STAR 4 level](#) for child care, based on four areas of quality standards:

Staff education: early childhood teachers have the training and knowledge for working with young children

Learning environment: the program has a variety of materials and activities for each age level that makes it possible for children to learn something new every day!

Leadership and management: a quality program has to have sound business practices to ensure your child's safety and early learning

Family and community partnerships: Parents and community members are encouraged to become a part of the child's learning progress

What to expect at First Friends, a STAR 4 program:

- At least half of lead teachers have a Bachelor's degree in early childhood education; all have or are working towards an Associate's degree.
- The director holds a meeting with families when a child enrolls, provides daily updates and offers three teacher conferences to share the child's progress each year.
- Teachers assess children's development three times a year, the first within 45 days of enrollment.
- Teachers use the PA Early Learning Standards to develop curriculum and assessment.
- Programs receive independent evaluation of their classroom setup and learning activities using a standardized tool (Environment Rating Scale).
- Teachers will meet with each family to make the child's transition to the next classroom easier (babies to toddlers; toddlers to preschool; preschool to kindergarten).
- Staff receives six employee benefits, such as health insurance, which helps reduce staff turnover.
- Staff completes continuing education each year.

Where your child spends his day can affect his learning for life! Keystone STARS helps families find – and afford – quality early learning for their children. Count the STARS. The higher the STAR level, the higher the quality.

First Friends is proud to be a STAR 4! The highest level of educational quality. And one of the few in our local area.



For more information about First Friends Call 215-348-2062