



BrightStars

It's the Rhode Island way.

Highlights: What you need to know

Rhode Island is committed to high-quality early learning opportunities for all children. That's the Rhode Island way.


- BrightStars supports this commitment by helping caregivers identify *quality* child care, early learning and school-age programs for their children.
- Caregivers can find a quality child care provider in their area by calling the BrightStars referral line at 1-855-398-7605 or by visiting [Brightstars.org](https://brightstars.org).
- All BrightStars rated programs must hold an active child care license issued by the Department of Human Services. You can feel confident that no matter what the rating, all BrightStars programs have met basic health and safety regulations as outlined by the State.

What is BrightStars?

BrightStars is Rhode Island's Tiered Quality Improvement Rating System (TQRIS). These systems are found across the United States. Rhode Island's system provides a star rating to participating childcare centers, public school preschools, family childcare homes, and before-after school programs. Parents and caregivers can use this rating system to make the most informed choices for their children. BrightStars also partners with Rhode Island's professional development and higher education systems to support child care providers in learning and implementing best practices based on the most recent research and recommended best practices.

How does the BrightStars' rating system work?

The BrightStars' star rating system is simple. The more stars a program has, the higher the quality rating. A provider that has a 1-Star rating has demonstrated that they are meeting health and safety requirements as outlined by the Department of Human Services Child Care Regulations. These regulations are the foundation of all BrightStars ratings. Providers can increase their ratings by implementing additional research-based best practices. These practices are recommended by various national experts and agencies with the goal of ensuring the safest, most positive experience for children and their caregivers. Providers apply for a rating through an application process that includes a thorough document review and unannounced site visits. Parents and caregivers can learn more about what each star rating means by visiting brightstars.org.



Why BrightStars?

Did you know that ninety percent of a child's brain develops before the age of 5? The quality of early child care experiences is a part of shaping that development.

BrightStars is here for Rhode Island families and caregivers because *quality* early childcare and education matter. A quality rating and improvement system ensures programs are providing healthy environments and enriching experiences that best support your child's growth and development. You deserve to know which programs are providing the highest quality care so that you can make the most informed decision.

How can you access BrightStars?

Caregivers can speak with a referral specialist by calling **1-855-398-7605** (a toll-free number) or by visiting **brightstars.org** and selecting the **Family Website** tab.

