

### How Does a Regulated Program Achieve STARS?\*

Arena	No Points Requested	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points	Total Points	
Regulatory History	In regulatory compliance	Operated as a regulated program for 12 months to 35 months with no serious or reoccurring violations	Operated as a regulated program for 36 months to 59 months with no serious or reoccurring violations	Operated as a regulated program for 60 months or more with no serious or reoccurring violations				
Staff Qualifications	In compliance with Vermont Child Care Licensing Regulations for staff training and qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have an individual professional development plan AND</li> </ul> Score based on achievements in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Course work</li> <li>Experience</li> <li>Annual Training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a individual professional development plan AND</li> </ul> Score based on achievements in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Course work</li> <li>Experience</li> <li>Annual Training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a individual professional development plan AND</li> </ul> Score based on achievements in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Course work</li> <li>Experience</li> <li>Annual Training</li> </ul>				
Families and Communities	In compliance with Vermont Child Care Licensing Regulations for working with families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a family satisfaction survey</li> <li>Create a plan based on what was learned from the family satisfaction survey</li> <li>Have a written philosophy on relationships with families</li> <li>Share community information &amp; resources with families</li> <li>Do some professional networking activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Criteria for one point</li> <li>Have social &amp; education events for families</li> <li>Have opportunities for families to be involved in the program</li> <li>Be an approved Specialized Child Care Provider</li> <li>Refer families to community supports as needed</li> </ul>	Criteria for one and two points AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the Strengthening Families Child Care Assessment Tool</li> <li>Develop a Strengthening Families program improvement plan OR</li> <li>Have a leadership statement</li> <li>Do leadership activities</li> <li>Professional reference about your leadership role</li> </ul>				
Program Practices	In compliance with Vermont Child Care Licensing Regulations for program practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do an evaluation of the program using an approved tool</li> <li>Develop a program improvement plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With a trained mentor do an evaluation of the program using an approved tool</li> <li>Develop a program improvement plan</li> <li>Do child observations</li> <li>Use child observations to plan curriculum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a independent assessor evaluate the program using an approved tool. Achieve a specific score</li> <li>Develop a program improvement plan</li> <li>Do child observations</li> <li>Use child observations to plan curriculum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a independent assessor evaluate the program using an approved tool. Achieve a specific score</li> <li>Develop a program improvement plan</li> <li>Do child observations</li> <li>Use child observations to plan curriculum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have national accreditation</li> <li>Program improvement plan</li> <li>Do child observations</li> <li>Use child observations to plan curriculum</li> </ul>		
Administration	In compliance with Vermont Child Care Licensing Regulations for administrating a child care program.	Family Homes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a written agreement or contract</li> </ul> Licensed Centers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy about planning individual professional development and benefits and salary scale</li> </ul>	Family Homes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Criteria for one point</li> <li>Policy on program closures</li> <li>Professional membership</li> </ul> Licensed Centers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Criteria for one point</li> <li>Staff breaks policy</li> </ul>	Family Homes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Criteria for one &amp; two points</li> <li>Parent handbook</li> <li>Liability insurance</li> <li>Written budget</li> </ul> Licensed Centers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Criteria for one &amp; two points</li> <li>Wage at least 85% of the livable wage</li> </ul>				
							Total Points	



1 – 4 points = One star      5 – 8 points = Two stars  
 9 – 11 points = Three stars      12 – 14 points = Four stars  
 15 -17 points = Five stars

\* Details in STARS application: <http://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/stars>

