

IS CHILD CARE IN TEXAS HIGH QUALITY?

Improving care for young children in Texas

By Shay Everitt, Patrick Gill, and Stephanie Phipps

JULY 2019

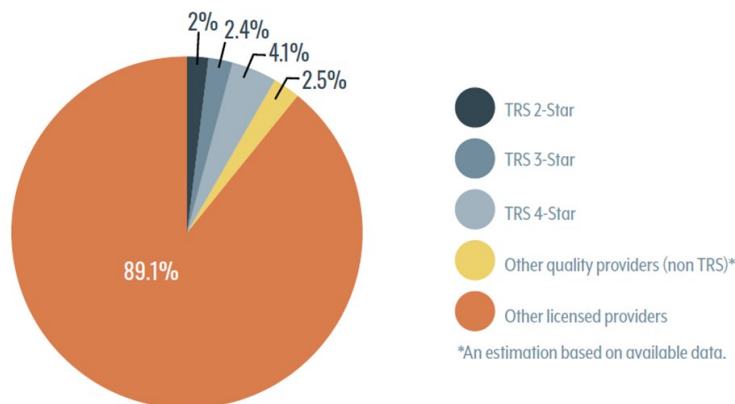
HIGHLIGHTS

- *Child care providers in Texas are not required to be assessed for quality.*
- *Few providers have chosen to become part of a system that ensures high quality care for children.*

Texas Rising Star (TRS) is our state's Quality Rating and Improvement System for (QRIS) child care providers. TRS is optional and only available to providers who are part of Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) subsidy program.

Of the 15,000 child care providers in Texas, only 7,500 providers are part of the subsidy program. Of those, only 20% are certified TRS with about half at the highest quality tier, TRS 4-Star.¹ Most of the families served through our subsidy system are not enrolled in TRS-certified care, with 70% of our most at-risk children not in quality-certified programs.² Just as troubling, TWC is only serving about 10% of potentially eligible children, leaving even more children without access to quality care.

The Vast Majority of Child Care in Texas is Not Certified to Meet Quality Standards ⁴



IS CHILD CARE IN TEXAS HIGH QUALITY?



There are also other national quality accrediting bodies, such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and National Accreditation Commission for Early Child Care and Education Program (NAC), which qualify a provider as TRS 4-Star if they accept children through TWC's subsidy program.³ Due in part to their rigor and/or high cost of associated fees, these national accreditations are less common than TRS. NAEYC and NAC combined account for only about 450 of the 15,000 child care providers statewide, compared to nearly 1,300 providers accredited through TRS. About half of the NAEYC and NAC providers are also TRS-certified, so there is overlap in these numbers.

For more information, please contact:

CHILDREN AT RISK
info@childrenatrisk.org
(713) 869- 7740

NOTES:

1. Texas Workforce Commission (2019). TRS Provider Data – May 15, 2019. Retrieved from <https://twc.texas.gov/files/partners/trs-providers-data-twc.pdf>
2. Analysis based on Public Information Request, Texas Workforce Commission. (2019).
3. Texas Workforce Commission. (2018). Texas Rising Star eligibility. Retrieved from <https://texasrisingstar.org/providers/trs-eligibility/>
4. CHILDREN AT RISK calculations using Texas Health and Human Services. (2018). Search for child care center or home. [spreadsheet] Retrieved from https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Search_Texas_Child_Care/ppFacilitySearchDayCare.asp; Analysis based on Public Information Request, Texas Workforce Commission. (2018).; information obtained from national accrediting bodies – NAEYC, NAC, NECPA, and ACSI.



CHILDREN AT RISK is a Texas based research and advocacy organization. Our mission is to serve as a catalyst for change to improve the quality of life for children through strategic research, public policy analysis, education, collaboration, and advocacy.

HOUSTON OFFICE
713-869-7740
2900 Wesleyan St. Ste. 400,
Houston TX, 77027

NORTH TEXAS OFFICE
214-599-0072
2900 Live Oak St.,
Dallas TX, 75204

childrenatrisk.org
@childrenatrisk
#forchildren