



September 21, 2009

Dear Early Childhood Community,

New York State and its children deserve excellence and access to high quality early care and learning environments. Many states in the country have implemented projects that both assess and offer opportunities and resources for program improvement ranging from professional development to technical assistance and increased compensation for workers.

New York is ready to bring this approach to its early childhood field through QUALITYstarsNY, our own Quality Rating and Improvement System. QUALITYstarsNY is designed to recognize programs that demonstrate quality above and beyond meeting New York's strong regulatory standards and help improve program quality by providing supports such as technical assistance and professional development. We are pleased to announce the launch of the field test of QUALITYstarsNY. The field test will provide data to guide decisions necessary for statewide implementation. The NYC Early Childhood Professional Development Institute (PDI), housed at the City University of New York has been asked to coordinate the field test.

For more details about QUALITYstarsNY and the field test please visit [here](#):

We all owe the NYS Early Care and Learning Council a debt of gratitude for initiating this work and sticking with it. A statewide Design Team has worked diligently over the past several years to bring a quality rating and improvement system to our state. A big thank you to the team! The Design Team has completed its work and its membership will now become part of the Quality Improvement Work Group of the newly established Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) where it will continue to advise on the development and implementation of QUALITYstarsNY as well as other quality improvement issues in family support and health care systems.

For more information on the ECAC please visit us at:
<http://www.ccf.state.ny.us/Initiatives/ECACHome.htm>

The ECAC is excited about QUALITYstarsNY and working with our partners to make this important project a success. We hope you will support us in this work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert G. Frawley".

Bob Frawley, Co-Chair Early Childhood Advisory Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Schimke".

Karen Schimke, Co-Chair Early Childhood Advisory Council