

## ★ QRS PILOT PROJECT FOR GREATER KANSAS CITY

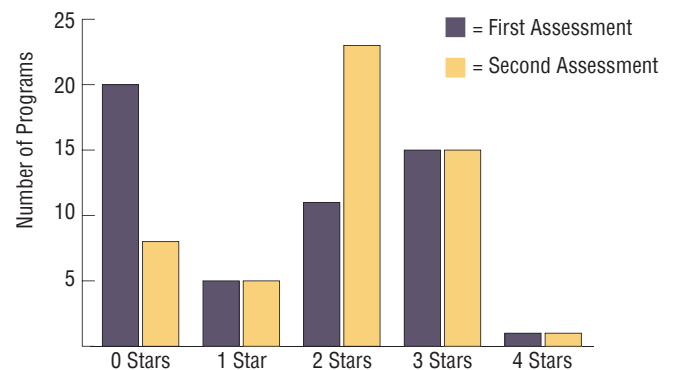
### ★ Stars in the Quality Rating System are based on points assigned according to program performance in key areas of program quality.

- The table provides the mean number of points in each key area for the 52 programs assessed.
- Statistically significant improvements were seen in learning environment, family partnerships and total points.

Component	1st Assessment	2nd Assessment
Learning Environment	2.77	4.50
Family Partnerships	5.19	6.92
Training & Education	2.37	2.63
Ratios	7.00	6.87
Accreditation	0.71	0.75
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>17.96</b>	<b>21.65</b>

### ★ Comparison of first and second QRS assessment ratings for 52 programs show significant improvement.

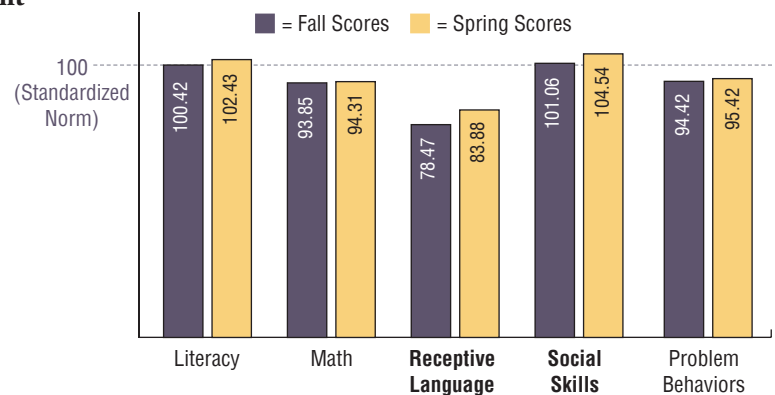
- Ratings increased from first assessment to second assessment. (See chart.)
- The percentage of programs with the lowest possible rating (zero stars) decreased from 39 percent to 15 percent.
- The percentage of programs earning no points for learning environment decreased from 35 percent to 15 percent.
- The percentage of programs with no points for family partnerships decreased from 29 percent to 12 percent.



## ★ QUALITY TEACHING FOR QUALITY OUTCOMES

### ★ Mean scores from Fall 2004 assessment of children in participating programs serving at least 50 percent low-income children

- All entering pre-kindergarten year
- Average age 4 years, 7 months
- 23 percent from households where English was not the primary language
- Racial composition of the sample:  
Caucasian ..... 15% African-American ..... 31%  
Hispanic/Latino.... 40% Other Race/Ethnicity .... 11%



### ★ Follow-up Spring 2005 assessment

At the end of the pre-kindergarten year, 93 children were reassessed. Statistically significant improvements were found in receptive language and social skills.

# Quality Rating System (QRS) for Greater Kansas City

## ★ What is the Quality Rating System?

- The QRS provides early learning programs with the information and supports they need to improve and maintain higher quality services.
- The core of the QRS is an easy-to-understand measurement tool of child care quality designed for both providers and parents.
- Based on a star rating system, the QRS measures quality of early learning programs on a rating scale from zero to four stars.

## ★ How does QRS work?

- Five areas are measured: Learning Environment, Family Partnership, Training and Education, Adult-to-Child Ratios and Program Accreditation.
- Points are awarded on each indicator and an overall Quality Rating is calculated.
- Programs receive a Quality Performance Profile that provides goals and a road map to improve quality and attain a higher star rating.

## ★ What supports do programs receive?

- A coach assists programs in achieving quality improvement goals.
- Coaches provide training and access to resources to help programs establish ongoing quality improvement.

## ★ Why is a QRS important?

- Research confirms that early learning programs that receive assessments and feedback are able to make steady progress toward higher quality services for their children and families. The goal of improved quality is to ensure that all children begin school ready to succeed.

*Currently, the QRS pilot project includes 88 programs across the bistate Kansas City region. Plans are to expand to 120 participating programs in 2006 and 250 programs over the next three years.*

## OUR FUNDERS

*The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation  
The Hall Family Foundation  
The Francis Family Foundation  
The George K. Baum Family Foundation  
The Stanley H. Durwood Foundation  
U.S. Department of Education  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
The Alliance of Greater Kansas City United Ways  
Tri-County Smart Start Kansas*

## OUR PARTNERS

*The Family Conservancy  
Midwest WholeChild Development Group  
The Francis Child Development Institute  
Project EAGLE  
UMKC Institute for Human Development*



## ★ How Can You Get Involved?

- Policy Makers:** Help implement public policies that require early learning programs to be engaged in QRS and provide incentives for programs to receive higher subsidies and compensation based on their star ratings.
- Funders:** Adopt an early learning center and provide fiscal support for the center to be involved in the QRS.
- Parents:** When looking for an early learning program for your child, ask the center if they are involved in QRS.
- Program Directors:** Call the Metropolitan Council on Early Learning for more information on how to become involved in QRS.