

Jacksonville Children’s Commission / Early Learning

www.JaxKids.net

Vision

To ensure Jacksonville’s children enter kindergarten prepared to learn, have stable and nurturing families, grow and develop during out-of-school time, and get special help when they need it.

Mission

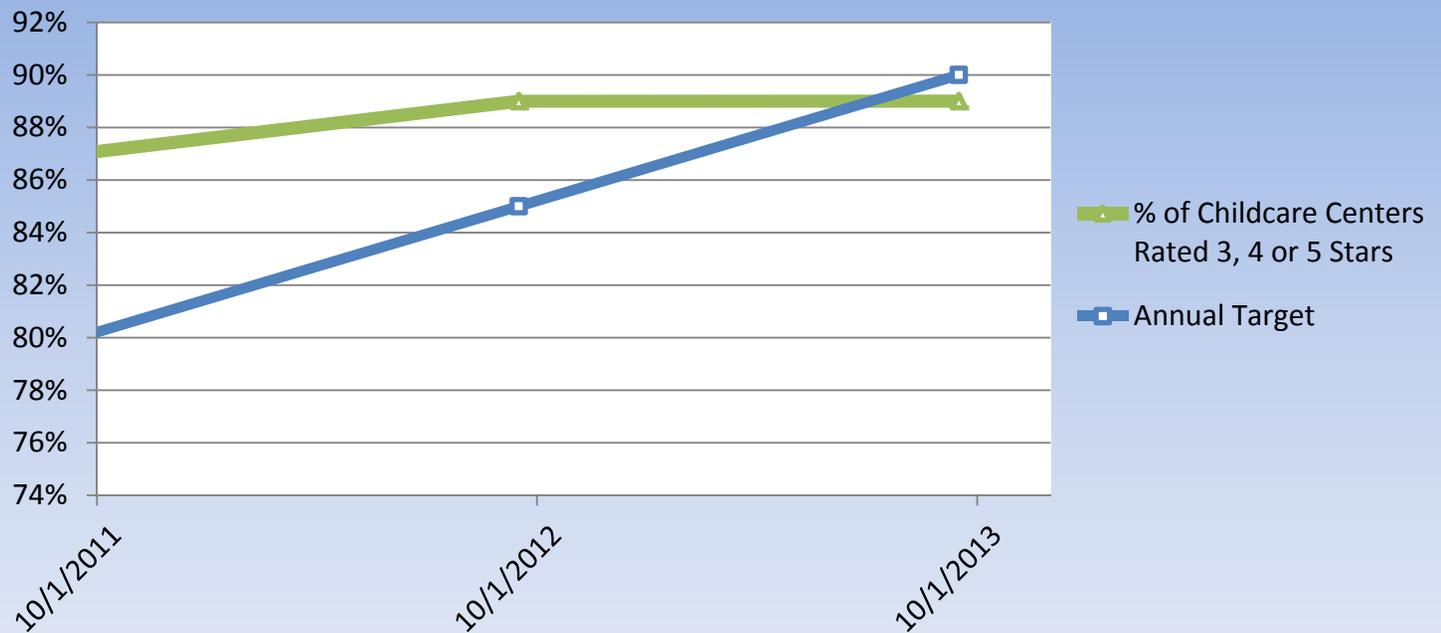
To support families in their efforts to maximize their children's potential to be healthy, safe, educated and contributing members of the community.

% of Childcare Centers Rated 3, 4, or 5 Stars through the “Guiding Stars of Duval” Quality Rating and Improvement System: 89%

City Priority

Education

Quality of Life





Narrative

Every parent wants the best for their child, starting as early as the childcare or “early learning” years. The Early Learning Coalition of Duval created a Quality Rating and Improvement System called Guiding Stars of Duval, which is used countywide to rate childcare centers at a 1-5 star level with, 5 being the “highest quality or best.” Similar in its theory to a hotel or restaurant star-rating system, parents can easily identify high-quality preschool education by simply understanding what the number of stars represent, and in turn ensure their children are getting the best education possible to prepare them for kindergarten.

The Guiding Stars of Duval (GSOD) awards star ratings to childcare centers that meet a defined set of quality program standards. This is a systematic approach to assess, improve, and educate the community about the level of quality in childcare centers. These defined standards build on the mandatory childcare guidelines and licensing standards set by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), ensuring an even higher level of quality exists within each star-rated center.

Each center is rated based on teacher-child ratio, staff qualifications, professional development, business practices, family engagement, overall program quality, curriculum and assessment, and teacher-child interaction.

Early Learning coaches regularly go into the childcare centers to work with both the teachers and directors to help them improve their skills, so that each child receives the best early education possible. The goal is to ensure each child is ready to enter kindergarten with all the skills needed to be successful.

Teachers and directors are coached individually on strategies to improve the classroom instruction, beginning with teachers of infants all the way up to teachers of four year-olds. Coaches use books and educational materials to help teachers understand the [Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards \(Birth to Five\)](#), including specific areas such as print knowledge, mathematics, vocabulary development, phonological awareness, science, and social and emotional development.

Notes Regarding Metric Data:

During the 2012-13 school year, the Guiding Stars of Duval rating tool was enhanced to a new level (2.0), incorporating two new assessments: Classroom Assessment and Scoring System (CLASS) and Infant Toddler Responsive Caregiving Checklist (ITRCC), which assess the quality of the interactions between the teacher and children in the classroom. High quality teacher-child interactions are linked to children being more successful in their learning and their later success in school. During this time there were not any new centers added to be star-rated.



For more information about Jacksonville Children's Commission programs and services please visit www.JaxKids.net.