

## **What does a high-quality early learning program look like?**

Delaware Stars promotes these features of quality in an early learning program:

### **The Child's Learning Environment**

- Are there high quality, planned activities that meet all parts of your child's early learning and developmental needs?
- Can you see that there is a wide variety of experiences for your child in the classroom?
- Does the classroom setting encourage your child to explore and be creative?
- Is there space in the classroom for active play?
- Is there a place in the classroom for quiet time where children can play quietly or read?
- Do the early educators use good language and reading skills in English or your child's language?
- Do the books and materials reflect your child's background and culture and the diversity of the community?

### **Great Teachers**

High quality programs have teachers that have very good relationships with the children, interact with the children often and model good language and communication skills.

- Do the teachers have college degrees in early education?
- Do the teachers spend a lot of time talking and listening to each child?
- Do teachers read to the children often?
- Is there a way the teachers have to tell parents about the child's daily activities or each and what the child is learning about?
- Do the teachers have training and the use of a developmental screening tool (such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire) that help to identify a young child's need for additional services or supports?

### **Partnerships with Families**

High quality programs involve parents as full partners while providing them with information, resources and support.

- Is there daily communication between teachers and families?
- Do families feel welcome and respected by the program and staff?
- Do parents have opportunities to participate in activities such as field trips, or parent-teacher conferences?
- Are parents encouraged to volunteer to assist in the program?
- Does the program recognize and value different cultures and interests?
- Is there a Parent Advisory Council for the program?

## **Program Leadership and Management**

- High quality programs have effective leadership with practices that provide a good, stable program setting, financial stability and the development of relationships with the community.
- Does the program have written rules or a policy that promotes awareness and respect of differences among children and families?
- Are there policies in place for retaining staff and for providing for ongoing training for staff?
- Can the staff tell you clearly what their role is in the program?
- Where there are other professional staff who come to the program to provide services or supports to children or teachers, does the program have a process in place to make sure there is good communication with such staff? (For instance, staff from other places that come in to provide early intervention services or early childhood mental health consultation).