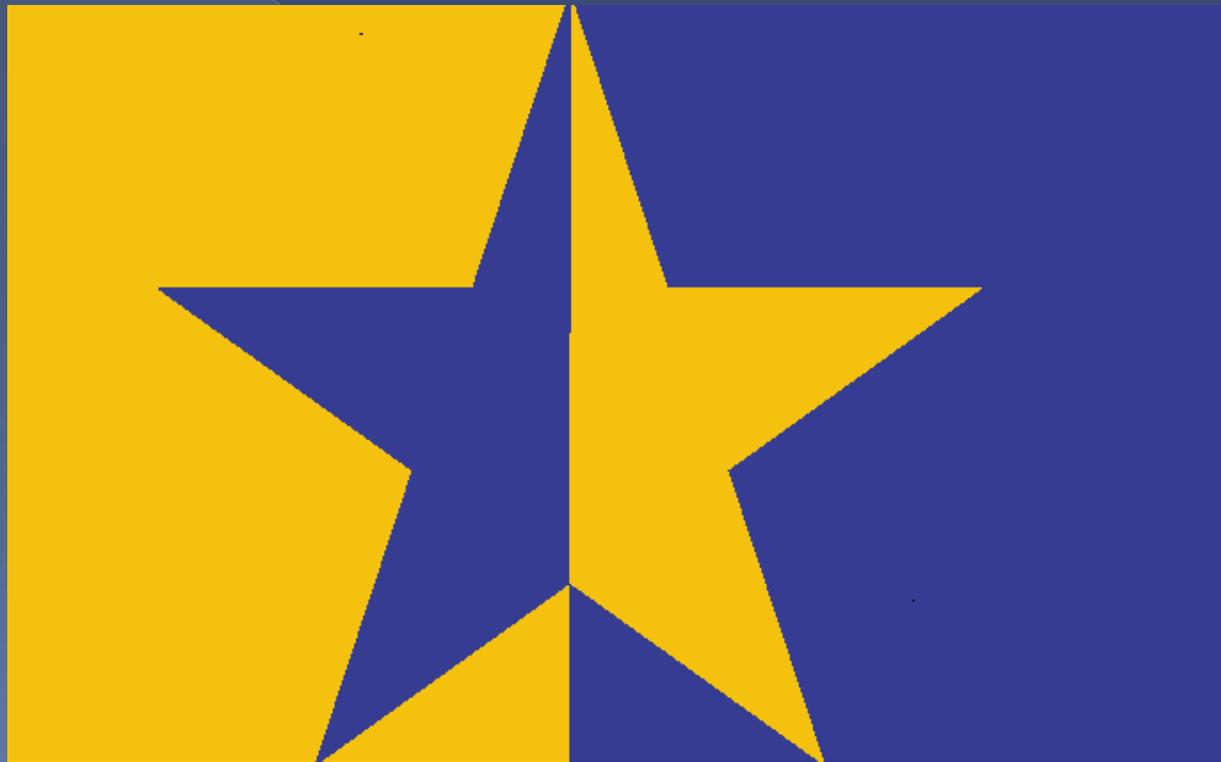


Texas Rising Star (TRS) Provider Certification Guidelines Overview



Agenda

- Introduction and History
- TRS Certification Levels and Scoring
 - TRS Criteria

Introduction and History -Purpose

The Texas Rising Star (TRS) Provider Certification is a voluntary quality rating system for Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)-subsidized children in licensed and registered facilities that is implemented at the local level.

- TRS encourages providers to attain progressively higher certification requirements that exceed minimum child care licensing standards.
- TRS is a “stepping stone” to national accreditation.
- TRS helps improve the quality of care for TWC-subsidized children.

Introduction and History

- **Based on child care research in the late 1980's**
 - 1985-86: Pilot with 700 facilities
- **1991 Designated Vendor Certification Guidelines (Texas Department of Human Services)**
- **2000-2003 Texas Rising Star (TRS) Updates**
 - 2000 Assessment and certification procedures
 - 2003 Lengthened re-certification periods
- **2008-2012 TRS Updates**
 - Alignment with the Department of Family and Protective Services
 - 2008 Update Home-based caregiver qualifications to align with DFPS
 - 2009 Revisions based on DFPS weighted standards for prescreening
 - 2012 Increased training hours based on DFPS changes

TRS Certification Levels

- ◎ Licensed Child Care Center
 - 2, 3, 4 Star Certification
- ◎ Licensed and Registered Child Care Homes
 - Provisional and Full Certification

TRS Certification Levels – Accredited Providers

Child care providers who are regulated by the military or who have attained one of the following national accreditations may initially be certified as a TRS Provider without going through the initial TRS Provider assessment process and are initially enrolled as a Four-Star or fully certified provider:

- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)
- National Accreditation Commission for Early Child Care and Education Program (NAC)
- Association of Christian School International (ACSI)
- National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC)
- National AfterSchool Association (NAA)

TRS Measures and Minimum Scoring per Certification Level

Category/Domain	Total Measures	Required Measures	Two-Star Certification	Three-Star Certification	Four-Star Certification
			Minimum Measures Required	Minimum Measures Required	Minimum Measures Required
I. Licensing Compliance	3	3	3	3	3
II. Director Qualifications	1	1	1	1	1
III. Caregiver Staff Qualifications	2	2	2	2	2
IV. Staff Orientation	6	5	5	5	6
V. Staff Training	8	2	4	5	7
VI. Group Size	1	1	waiver possible	1/group	1/group
VII. A. Curriculum	9	1	4	5	7
VII. B. Activities	21	3	11/group	13/group	17/group
VIII. Child-Caregiver Interaction	6	2	3/group	4/group	5/group
IX. A. Physical Environment: Indoor 0-17 mo.	22	2	11/group	14/group	18/group
IX. B. Physical Environment: Indoor 18 mo-5 yr.	24	2	11/group	14/group	18/group
IX. C. Physical Environment: Indoor 6-12 years	29	2	14/group	18/group	25/group

TRS Measures and Minimum Scoring per Certification Level

Category/Domain	Total Points	Required Measures	Two-Star Certification	Three-Star Certification	Four-Star Certification
			Minimum Points Required	Minimum Points Required	Minimum Points Required
IX. D. Outdoor Environment	23	1	12/play area	15/play area	19/play area
X. Health and Safety	6	6	6/group	6/group	6/group
XI. A. Nutrition /Meal Time 0-17 mos.	9	1	5/group	6/group	7/group
XI. B. Nutrition /Meal Time 18 mos. – 12 years	13	2	8/group	10/group	12/group
XII. Parental Involvement	21	1	11	13	17

Measures per TRS Level

	Two-Star Certification	Three-Star Certification	Four-Star Certification
Criteria That Must Be Fully Met >	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing Compliance <input type="checkbox"/> Director Qualifications <input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver Staff Qualifications <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Group Size (Waiver Possible) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing Compliance <input type="checkbox"/> Director Qualifications <input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver Staff Qualifications <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Group Size 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing Compliance <input type="checkbox"/> Director Qualifications <input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver Staff Qualifications <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Group Size <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Orientation
Number of Measures the Facility Must Meet for Each of the Criteria Listed >	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Orientation 5 minimum <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Training 4 minimum <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum 4 minimum <input type="checkbox"/> Parental Involvement 11 min. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Orientation 5 minimum <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Training 5 minimum <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum 5 minimum <input type="checkbox"/> Parental Involvement 13 min 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Training 7 min <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum 7 min <input type="checkbox"/> Parental Involvement 17 min
Number of Measures Each Individual Care Group Must Meet for Each of the Criteria Listed >	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Activities 11/group <input type="checkbox"/> Child/Staff Interaction 3/group <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Environment 12/play area <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition/Meal Time 8/group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Activities 13/group <input type="checkbox"/> Child/Staff Interaction 4/group <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Environment 15/play area <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition/Meal Time 10/group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Activities 17/group <input type="checkbox"/> Child/Staff Interaction 5/group <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Environment 19/play area <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition/Meal Time 12/group

TRS Criteria

Licensing Compliance

Director/Staff Qualifications and Training

- > Director qualifications
- > Caregiver staff qualifications
- > Staff orientation
- > Staff training

Caregiver/Child Interactions

- > Group size
- > Caregiver-child interactions

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

- > Curriculum and activities
- > Physical environment
- > Health and safety
- > Nutrition and meal time

Parental involvement

- > Parental involvement

Licensing Compliance

I. Licensing Compliance

⦿ 3 Measures (All Required)

1. Facilities must have a permanent license or registration (cannot be on corrective action).
2. All non-compliances cited by DFPS were corrected within the designated timeframe.
3. All conditions placed on the center during a probationary period were satisfactorily met.

Director/Staff Qualifications & Training

TRS Criteria:

II. Director Qualifications

III. Caregiver Qualifications

IV. Staff Orientation (Pre-Service)

V. Staff Training

Director/Staff Qualifications & Training

II. Director Qualifications:

- 1 Measure (Required)

1. The center director must meet DFPS Minimum Child Care Licensing Standards qualifications for On-Site Director, *without licensing waivers.*

Director/Staff Qualifications & Training

III. Caregiver Qualifications:

◎ 2 Measures (All Required)

1. At least 30% of the total full time staff has a combination of:

Option A

- > Child Development Associate (CDA) credential; OR
- > Certified Childcare Professional (CCP) credential; OR
- > associate or higher degree in child development in early childhood education, or a related field.

Option B

- > twelve completed semester hours in child development or early childhood education, AND
- > one year full-time paid experience working with children as a caregiver in a licensed or registered child care facility.

Director/Staff Qualifications & Training

Caregiver Qualifications (continued):

Option C

- > Two years full-time paid experience with children as a caregiver in a licensed or regulated child care facility while working toward a CDA or CCP credential

Option D

- > Two years paid experience working with children as a caregiver in a licensed or regulated child care facility while under supervision of a staff person who has either:
 - a CDA or CCP credential; OR
 - an associate or higher degree in child development, early childhood education or a related field.

2. Assurance that the provider will work to achieve a goal of having 75% of their full-time caregivers meeting the TRS staff qualifications.

Director/Staff Qualifications & Training

IV. Staff Orientation (Pre-Service):

◎ 6 Measures (5 required)

- > 5 for 2-3-Star
- > 6 for 4-Star

Before beginning child care duties, all caregiver staff receives orientation as follows:

- 1. All orientation items specified in Minimum Child Care Licensing Standards***
- 2. Personnel policies and specific job functions***
- 3. TRS Certification Criteria***
- 4. An overview of the developmental needs of assigned children***
- 5. all volunteers and substitute caregivers are provided orientation that defines the task to which they are assigned***
- 6. The planned daily activities of the facility.**

*required measure

Director/Staff Qualifications & Training

V. Staff Training:

◎ 8 Measures (2 required)

- > 4 for 2-Star
- > 5 for 3-Star
- > 7 for 4-Star

- 1. The provider has a written training plan.***
- 2. The plan is based on the CDA Competencies/CCP Ability areas. ***
3. The plan was approved by Child Care Contractor staff.
4. The plan provides for a minimum of 30 clock hours of child care related training for all child care staff.
5. The plan provides for a minimum of 36 clock hours of training for directors, including a minimum of 6 clock hours in program administration, management and supervision.

*required measure

Director/Staff Qualifications & Training

V. Staff Training (Cont'd):

6. The plan provides for TWC-approved training on acceptance of diversity.
7. All child care staff participates in training according to the approved plan.
8. The provider arranges or provides the designated training activities.

Caregiver-Child Interactions

TRS Criteria

VI. Group Size

Age Related and Mixed Age Groups

VIII. Caregiver-Child Interaction

Caregiver-Child Interactions

VI. Group Size (Age-Related Groups)

- 1 Measure (Required, 2-Star Waiver Possible)

Age Group	Maximum Group Size
Age 0 through 12 months:	10
Age 13 through 17 months:	12
Age 18 through 23 months:	14
Age 24 through 35 months:	14
Age 3:	18
Age 4:	21
Age 5:	25
Age 6 through 8 years:	25
Age 9 through 12 years:	30

Caregiver-Child Interactions

VI. Group Size (Mixed-Age Groups)

- 1 Measure (Required, 2-Star Waiver Possible)

Age Group	Maximum Group Size
Age 0 through 17 months:	10
Age 13 through 23 months:	12
Age 2 and 3 year olds:	16
Age 3 and 4 year olds:	18
Age 3, 4 and 5 years:	18
Age 4 and 5 year olds:	21
Age 5 through 8 year olds:	25
Age 9 through 12 years:	30

Caregiver-Child Interactions

VIII. Caregiver-Child Interaction (Per Group):

● 6 Measures (2 required)

- > 3 for 2-Star
 - > 4 for 3-Star
 - > 5 for 4-Star
1. Caregivers interact frequently during the day.*
 2. All staff responds to each child in a positive manner appropriate to the child's age and developmental level.*
 3. Caregivers use positive guidance.
 4. Caregivers encourage developmentally appropriate social behavior.
 5. Caregivers recognize and accept each child's feelings and help the child deal with those feelings.
 6. All children are treated equally, with respect and consideration, by all caregivers.

*required measure

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

TRS Criteria

VII. A. Curriculum

VII. B. Activities

IX. A. Physical Environment: Indoor (0-17 months)

IX. B. Physical Environment: Indoor (18 months – 5 years)

IX. C. Physical Environment: Indoor (6 – 12 years)

IX. C. Physical Environment: Outdoor

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

VII. A. Curriculum

9 Measures (1 required)

- > 4 for 2-Star
- > 5 for 3-Star
- > 7 for 4-Star

1. A written curriculum plan is maintained which is developmentally appropriate, provides activities to meet individual child needs, and culturally diverse*

The plan includes goals and objectives related to:

2. Creative Expression
3. Positive Self-Esteem
4. Social Skills
5. Cognitive Skills
6. Communication Skills
7. Health/Safety Habits
8. Physical Development
9. Acceptance of Diversity

*required measure

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

VII. B. Activities

○ 21 Measures (3 required)

- > 11 for 2-Star
- > 13 for 3-Star
- > 17 for 4-Star

1. Staff plans are based on curriculum goals for ages of children

Planned daily activities:

2. **Are developmentally appropriate***
3. **Allow for direct involvement of children***

Materials available to children are:

4. **Developmentally appropriate***
5. Encourage hands-on manipulation of real objects
6. Supportive of at least 6 of the 8 planned daily activity objectives

*required measure

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

VII. B. Activities (Cont'd)

Planned daily activity objectives:

7. Creative expression
8. Positive Self-esteem
9. Social Skills
10. Cognitive Skills
11. Communication Skills
12. Health/Safety Habits
13. Physical Development
14. Appreciation of Diversity

The daily schedule reflects a balance among:

15. Indoor/Outdoor
16. Quiet/Active
17. Individual/Small Group/Large Group
18. Large Muscle/Small Muscle
19. Child Initiated/Caregiver Initiated
20. Routine and transition times are used as opportunities for learning
21. Transition times are planned to avoid disruptions

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

IX Physical Environment: Indoor (0-17 months)

- **22 Measures (2 required, 3 required for 3-4-Star)**
 - > **11 for 2-Star**
 - > **14 for 3-Star**
 - > **18 for 4-Star**

Indoor Equipment and Materials are:

- 1. Appropriately sized for infants***
- 2. Developmentally appropriate***
- 3. Sufficient to sustain play in each group(*for 3-4-Star)**
4. Complete
5. Clean
6. In good repair

*required measure

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

IX Physical Environment: Indoor (0-17 months) (Cont'd)

Equipment and Materials Provide for:

7. Easy accessibility for children to select and return items
8. An orderly, uncluttered atmosphere
9. Visual and/or auditory supervision in all area
10. Separation of active and quiet plan
11. Traffic patterns that avoid disruption of activities/interest areas

Equipment for sleeping, diapering and feeding are:

12. Sufficient
13. Accessible

Equipment and materials encourage:

14. Experiencing environment through all five senses
15. Interaction with real objects
16. Social interaction
17. Music/Movement

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

IX Physical Environment: Indoor (0-17 months) (Cont'd)

Developmentally appropriate materials and equipment:

- 18. Portray people in a manner that is non- stereotypical
- 19. Provide activities that are culturally sensitive

Other:

- 20. Equipment and materials are rotated regularly or as children show lessening interest
- 21. Diapering area includes items that enhance cognitive and communication skills
- 22. There are at least 100 square feet of open space free of furniture

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

IX Physical Environment: Indoor (18 months – 5 years)

● 24 Measures (2 required)

- > 11 for 2-Star
- > 14 for 3-Star
- > 18 for 4-Star

Indoor Equipment and Materials are:

1. **Developmentally appropriate***
2. **Arranged in interest areas***
3. Appropriately sized for age of children in group
4. Available to support the curriculum
5. Complete
6. Clean
7. In good repair
8. Encourage hands-on manipulation of real objects

*required measure

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

IX Physical Environment: Indoor (18 mos – 5 yrs) (Cont'd)

Equipment and Materials Provide for:

9. Easy accessibility for children to select and return items
10. An orderly, uncluttered atmosphere
11. Visual and/or auditory supervision in all area
12. Separation of active and quiet plan
13. Traffic patterns that avoid disruption of activities/interest areas

Equipment/materials are sufficient to accommodate sustained play in:

14. Blocks/Construction Play
15. Dramatic Play
16. Manipulatives
17. Stories/Language
18. Music
19. Art
20. Discovery/Science

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

IX Physical Environment: Indoor (18 mos – 5 yrs) (Cont'd)

Developmentally appropriate materials and equipment:

21. Portray people in a manner that is non- stereotypical
22. Provide activities that are culturally sensitive

Other:

23. Equipment and materials are rotated regularly or as children show lessening interest
24. There are at least 30 square feet of open space free of furniture

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

IX Physical Environment: Indoor (6 through 12 years)

- **29 Measures (2 required)**
 - > **14 for 2-Star**
 - > **18 for 3-Star**
 - > **25 for 4-Star**

Indoor Equipment and Materials are:

- 1. Developmentally appropriate***
- 2. Arranged in interest areas***
3. Appropriately sized for age of children in group
4. Available to support the curriculum
5. Complete
6. Clean
7. In good repair
8. Encourage hands-on manipulation of real objects

*required measure

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

IX Physical Environment: Indoor (6 through 12 years) (Cont'd)

Equipment and Materials Provide for:

9. Easy accessibility for children to select and return items
10. An orderly, uncluttered atmosphere
11. Visual and/or auditory supervision in all area
12. Separation of active and quiet plan
13. Traffic patterns that avoid disruption of activities/interest areas

Equipment/materials are sufficient to accommodate sustained play in:

14. Blocks/Construction Play/Woodworking
15. Dramatic Play/Theatre
16. Manipulatives/Table Games/Puzzles
17. Stories/Language/Creative Writing
18. Music/Listening
19. Art/Crafts/Creative Expression
20. Discovery/Science/Computer Centers

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

IX Physical Environment: Indoor (6 through 12 years) (Cont'd)

Sufficient Space is provided for:

21. Active group games
22. Interest centers for individual and small group projects/activities
23. An area for quiet activities such as reading and homework
24. Storage of children's personal items

Other:

25. Portray people in a manner that is non-stereotypical
26. Provide activities that are culturally sensitive
27. Equipment and materials are rotated regularly or as children show lessening interest
28. There are at least 30 square feet of open space free of furniture
29. Indoor space is available so the environment can be prepared before children's arrival

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

IX Physical Environment: Outdoor

- **23 Measures (1 required, 2 required for 3-4-Star)**
 - > **12 for 2-Star**
 - > **15 for 3-Star**
 - > **19 for 4-Star**

Outdoor Equipment and Materials are:

- 1. Developmentally appropriate for the ages and sizes of all children***
- 2. Sufficient quantities to support the curriculum (*for 3-4-Star)**
3. Complete
4. Clean
5. In good repair

*required measure

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

IX Physical Environment: Outdoor (Cont'd)

Arrangement of Outdoor Equipment and Materials Provides for:

6. Easy accessibility for children to select and return items
7. An orderly, uncluttered atmosphere
8. Visual and/or auditory supervision in all areas
9. Separation of active and quiet play areas
10. Traffic patterns that avoid disruption of activities/interest areas

Outdoor play areas include:

11. A variety of surfaces
12. Climbing and other active play items and structures
13. Adequate storage for equipment and materials
14. Partial shade
15. Quiet private spaces
16. Open areas for riding equipment, push toys, running and games

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

IX Physical Environment: Outdoor (Cont'd)

Developmentally appropriate materials and equipment:

17. Portray people in a manner that is non-stereotypical
18. Provide activities that are culturally sensitive

Other:

19. Outdoor interest areas provide for a variety of activities
20. Equipment and materials are rotated regularly
21. Opportunities for hands-on manipulation
22. Outdoor play areas are appropriate for ages of children
23. Opportunities to engage in dramatic play are provided

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

X. Health and Safety

⦿ 6 Measures (All Required)

1. Children are checked upon arrival for signs of illness, injury or evidence of possible abuse/neglect.
2. Caregivers stop children who are engaged in unsafe or unhealthy activities.
3. Caregivers suggest and demonstrate ways for children to help maintain a safe environment.
4. Areas for diapering and toileting are separate from food storage, preparation and service areas.
5. Daily health and safety hazard inspections of the indoor and outdoor environments are conducted before they are used by children.
6. Written procedures must be in place to check the status of a child when the child is expected to arrive for care after school but fails to show up.

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

XI. Nutrition and Meal Time (0 through 17 months)

◎ 9 Measures (1 required)

> 5 for 2-Star

> 6 for 3-Star

> 7 for 4-Star

1. **Infants are held and talked to while bottle fed***

2. Meals are served to children seated in small groupings with assigned caregivers

3. Initial servings are small

4. Drinks are offered with food

5. Seconds are available

6. Children are not hurried to finish eating

7. Children are encouraged to engage in conversation

8. Children are given the opportunity to feed themselves

9. Children are offered food that represents a variety of ethnic backgrounds

* Required measure

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

XI. Nutrition and Meal Time (18 months through 12 years)

◎ 13 Measures (2 required)

- > 8 for 2-Star
 - > 10 for 3-Star
 - > 12 for 4-Star
1. **Meals are served to children seated in small groupings with their assigned caregivers***
 2. **School-age children have scheduled snacks seated at a table with an adult at least twice a week***
 3. Initial servings are small
 4. Drinks are offered with food
 5. Seconds are available
 6. Children are not hurried to finish eating
 7. Children are encouraged to engage in conversation during meal time
 8. Children are given the opportunity to feed themselves

*required measure

Curriculum/Physical and Social Activities

XI. Nutrition and Meal Time (18 months through 12 years) (Cont'd)

9. Children are offered food that represents a variety of ethnic backgrounds
10. Caregivers model friendly social behavior
11. Caregivers model appropriate dining etiquette
12. Snack times take into account school-age children's different eating schedules outside the program
13. School-age children are encouraged to help prepare and serve their own snacks (unless prohibited by local health departments).

Parental Involvement

XII. Parental Involvement

◎ 21 Measures (1 required)

- > 11 for 2-Star
- > 13 for 3-Star
- > 17 for 4-Star

1. The center has written policies for parents*

Written policies include:

2. Hours, days of operation
3. Child health policies
4. Fees
5. Complaint procedures
6. Meal service
7. Discipline
8. Clothing

*required measure

Parental Involvement

XII. Parental Involvement (Cont'd)

Written policies include:

9. Absences
10. Parent conferences
11. Program philosophy and/or goals

Parents are invited to visit the program and to participate through one or more of the following ways:

12. Periodic invitations for special occasions or events
13. Parent meetings or support groups
14. Parent work groups
15. Invitations to parents to share culture-specific information and objects
16. Other parent participation activities

Parental Involvement

XII. Parental Involvement (Cont'd)

Other measures:

17. A parent advisory group is established and meets twice a year.
18. Children's development is shared with parents on an ongoing basis.
19. Children's progress is documented semiannually.
20. A consistent method is used for communicating with all parents with special needs.
21. A designated area is maintained where daily schedules, menus and other important notices are available to parents