

March 13, 2023

Dear Early Childhood Education Program Directors and Family Child Care Providers:

Last week, the [Center for Research and Evaluation on Education and Human Services \(CREEHS\)](#), in collaboration with the NJ Department of Human Services Division of Family Development, made the exciting announcement that in-person Grow NJ Kids rating observations and Official Star Ratings have resumed. We also announced that we are developing a streamlined re-rating process for eligible programs. More information regarding the streamlined re-rating process will be provided soon.

Please see below for important information as it relates to your program and the Grow NJ Kids Technical Assistance or Star Rating process.

Programs seeking an initial Star Rating

Programs that have worked with their Technical Assistance Specialist and are ready for their initial Grow NJ Kids Star Rating should request an Official Star Rating. All rating documents and the [Grow NJ Kids Rating](#) website have been updated to reflect that Official Star Ratings have resumed. Provisional and PROP Ratings have been discontinued.

Programs seeking a Star Rating renewal or re-rating

Programs that received an initial Grow NJ Kids Star Rating previously and are eligible for a rating renewal or re-rating should wait to submit for rating until the streamlined re-rating process is available. We anticipate that most programs will be eligible for the streamlined re-rating process, and will provide more details when streamlined re-rating is available.

Programs with a Provisional or PROP Rating

Programs with a Provisional or PROP Rating must request an in-person observation by **September 8, 2023**, and the observation must be conducted by **March 8, 2024**. Observations can be requested by completing the [Provisional-rated Programs Observation Request Form](#) found on the [Grow NJ Kids Rating](#) website. Programs that received a Provisional or PROP Rating prior to August 31, 2022 will be asked to resubmit *select* time-sensitive documentation and formal curriculum training records for new staff.

Programs with an expired Star Rating

Programs with a Grow NJ Kids Official Star Rating that expired or will expire between March 1, 2020 and September 8, 2023 may submit for a streamlined re-rating by **March 8, 2024**, once streamlined re-rating is available. Programs that are not ready for rating by March 8, 2024 should submit for the full, non-streamlined rating process by **September 9, 2024**. Next steps for programs who do not submit for re-rating by September 9, 2024 will be determined by DFD in collaboration with the program's Technical Assistance Center. Programs with an Official Star Rating that expires after September 8, 2023 must submit for re-rating two months prior to their rating expiration date to ensure their Star Rating does not lapse.

We are excited to resume in-person rating observations and to provide Official Grow NJ Kids Star Ratings! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at GNJKrating@montclair.edu.

Best,

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