



A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER at Prevent Child Abuse-New Jersey

Volume 3
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Supporting Hudson, Essex, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean & Somerset Counties

September 2018

THE ABC's OF QUALITY



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Back to Basics

It's back to school time! A fresh start to the school year often means back to basics. As you welcome children and families into your programs, consider establishing a few new routines to improve the overall quality of your program. This may include providing resources to parents to encourage healthy snack options, teaching children a new handwashing song, or supporting teachers to reflect on curriculum implementation. Don't forget, while the children may be your main focus, supporting parents, staff, and all members of your community is essential to ensure success.

As you begin the new school year, reflect on these questions to help you identify ways you can be more successful in your role:

- What do I want for the children/teachers in my program?

- How can I excel in my role and plan for a successful school year?

This newsletter includes a variety of resources to support your efforts to create, maintain and sustain a culture of continuous quality improvement.

Moving Forward with Quality in Mind

As a Grow NJ Kids program, you have taken the first step to demonstrate your commitment to quality! It's important to realize that each step you take in this process will contribute to the overall success of your program. The five categories covered within the Grow NJ Kids were designed to help you reflect on integral components of a quality program.

In order to support your progress towards quality, consider the following:

1) What am I doing to promote the health and well-being of each child?

2) How does the environment support a community of young learners? (see photos below)

3) How will we keep parents connected with their child's daily experiences? (see photo below)

4) Have we planned regular opportunities for teachers to reflect on their teaching practices?

5) How are the business practices of our program aligned with our goal to provide quality child care and educational programming?

These questions could be included as discussion points at your next staff meeting or adapted to fit into your parent or staff survey to gain valuable insight from members of your community. The input received may lead you to develop action items for your Quality Improvement/Continuous Quality Improvement Plan. By gathering input and working together to address these questions, you will be on your way to improving quality, while meeting a number of Grow NJ Kids standards.

[Click here for additional resources to support your quality improvement efforts...](#)



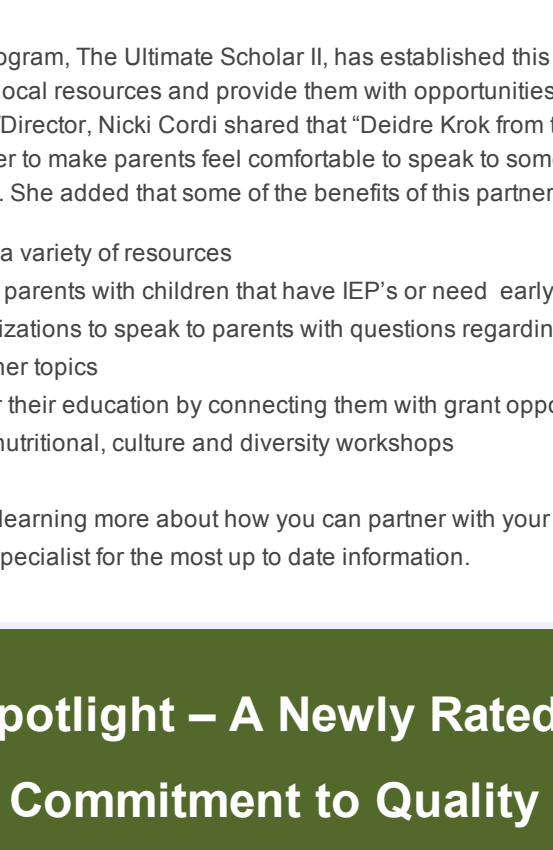
Creating an environment filled with children's artwork, photographs of classroom activity and curriculum related displays creates learning opportunities for students.

(Better Beginnings Child Development Center)



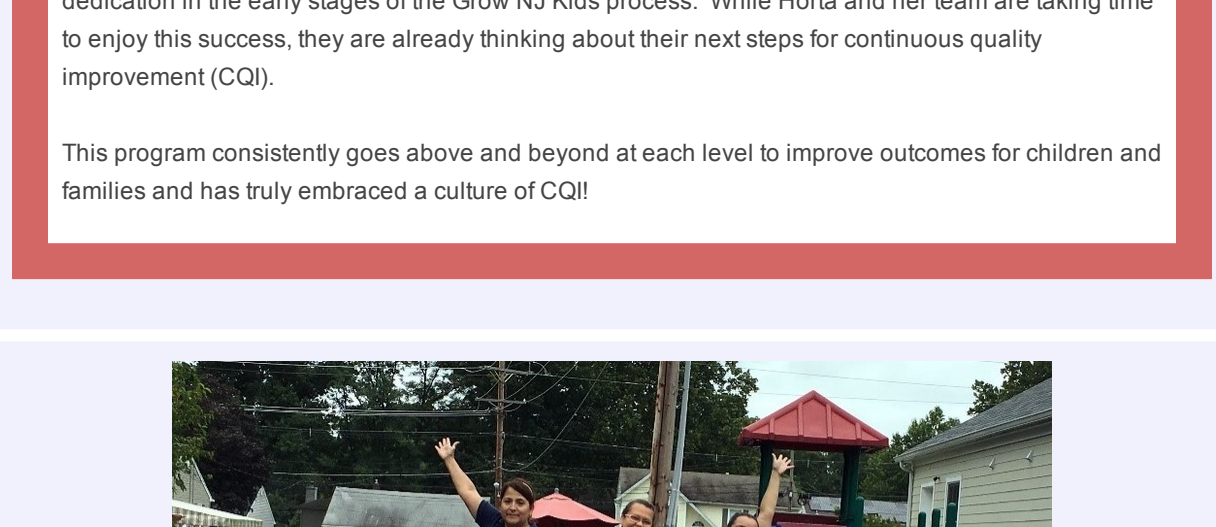
Well defined centers and use of curriculum display supports a community of young learners.

(Better Beginnings Child Development Center)



To keep parents connected to their children's daily experiences, children and parents worked together to create a project using only recycled materials. The 3-D projects are displayed in each classroom.

(Better Beginnings Child Development Center)



Setting Up to Support Children's Learning

(William Patterson University)

Keeping up with Environment Rating Scale (ERS) Requirements

Keeping up with the requirements in the ERS tools (ITERS-3, ECERS-3and FCCERS-R) is essential to your continuous quality improvement efforts. Whether you have successfully achieved rating or are in progress towards rating, it's important to consider the steps needed to maintain new changes and continue efforts to improve your ERS scores.

[Click here to read more...](#)

Ways to Improve Family Engagement

If you are looking for ways to improve family engagement, you may want to consider the benefits of teaming up with your local County Council for Young Children (CCYC). This partnership works to build bridges between parents, programs and the community and can improve the quality of your program in the area of Family and Community Engagement.

Grow NJ Kids 3-Star Rated Program, The Ultimate Scholar II, has established this connection and is actively working to connect parents to local resources and provide them with opportunities to take a more active role in their child's education. Owner/Director, Nicki Cordi shared that "Deidre Krok from the CCYC and The Ultimate Scholar II have worked together to make parents feel comfortable to speak to someone at any time that cares about them and their children". She added that some of the benefits of this partnership include:

- Connecting families to a variety of resources
- Providing guidance for parents with children that have IEP's or need early intervention
- Connecting with organizations to speak to parents with questions regarding health insurance, medical needs, and other topics
- Helping parents further their education by connecting them with grant opportunities
- Being able to provide nutritional, culture and diversity workshops

If you are interested in learning more about how you can partner with your local CCYC, contact your Technical Assistance Specialist for the most up to date information.

Program Spotlight – A Newly Rated Program's Commitment to Quality

Better Beginnings Child Development Center recently became the first Grow NJ Kids star rated program in Mercer County. This 4-Star Rated Program provides high quality, affordable child care and education to working parents in the Hightstown-East Windsor area of Mercer County. During a recent visit, Director Luz Horta, shared that going through this process helped them to see that there is always room for improvement. **She discussed the importance of:**

- **having a strong administrative team;**
- **taking time to thoroughly evaluate where your program is with each standard;**
- **empowering staff to take ownership of their classrooms;**
- **providing peer mentoring support; and**
- **working through the challenges together as a team**

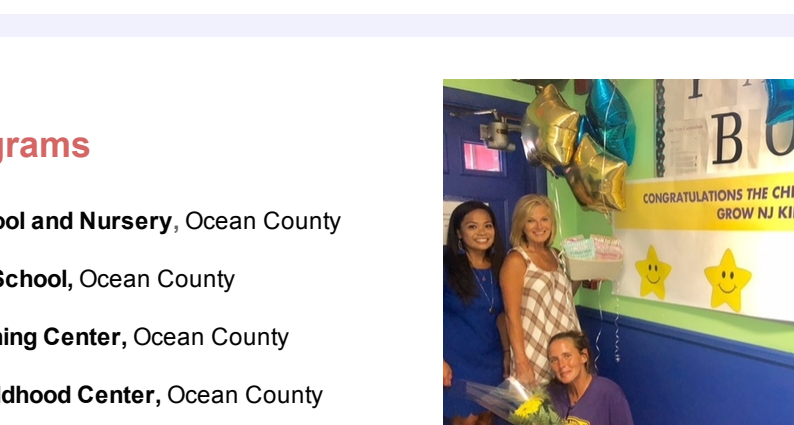
Horta credits Joanne Bodnar, Technical Assistance Specialist, for effectively partnering with teachers and administrators to provide guidance, coaching and mentoring throughout this process. Horta also acknowledges the work of Brenda Werner, former Assistant Director, for her commitment and dedication in the early stages of the Grow NJ Kids process. While Horta and her team are taking time to enjoy this success, they are already thinking about their next steps for continuous quality improvement (CQI).

This program consistently goes above and beyond at each level to improve outcomes for children and families and has truly embraced a culture of CQI!



**Congratulations to
Better Beginnings Child Development Center!!!**

Time to Celebrate!!! Recently Rated Programs in Central and Northeastern NJ!



Congratulations to all of our partner centers and family childcare providers that recently achieved their star rating! Your success, growth, and commitment to quality exemplifies true leadership and teamwork and you are an inspiration to all of those who are working to reach the stars.

At the TA Center, we are incredibly proud to have worked alongside you as you've reached this milestone and we maintain our commitment to providing ongoing support throughout your continuous quality improvement process.

4-Star Programs

Bayville Preschool and Nursery, Ocean County

Hilltop Nursery School, Ocean County

Land of Oz Learning Center, Ocean County

Ocean Early Childhood Center, Ocean County

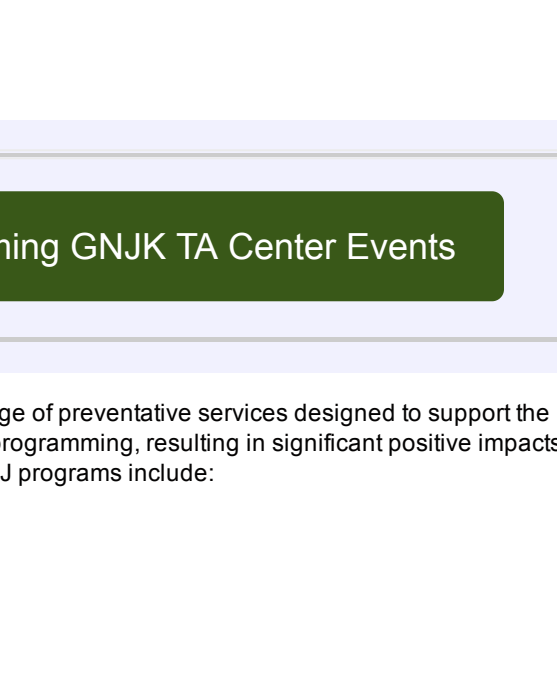
St. Francis Community Center Preschool, Ocean County

The Goddard School of Tom's River, Ocean County

The Peppermint Tree Child Development Center, Ocean County

Treasured Angels, Ocean County

Children's Center for Learning, Middlesex County



Children's Center for Learning in South Amboy

3-Star Programs

Imagine Federal, Essex County

Glenis Biseno, Middlesex County

Maria Mayai, Middlesex County

The Ultimate Scholar II, Ocean County

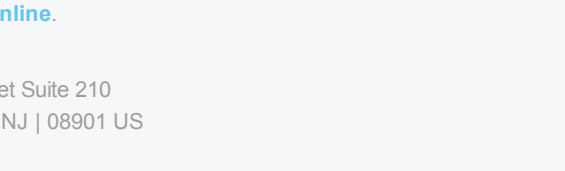
VIP Child Development Center, Ocean County

[Click here to learn about upcoming GNJK TA Center Events](#)

Prevent Child Abuse-NJ (PCA-NJ) operates a broad range of preventative services designed to support the improvement and quality of professional workforces and programming, resulting in significant positive impacts on family functioning and health in all 21 counties. PCA-NJ programs include:

- Grow NJ Kids TA Center
- Healthy Families
- Parents as Teachers
- Parent Linking Program
- Enough Abuse
- The Period of Purple Crying
- Human Trafficking Prevention
- Middlesex County Council for Young Children
- Essex Pregnancy and Parenting Connection
- Parent Education and Technical Assistance

For more information visit www.preventchildabusenj.org



CONTACT US ANY TIME!

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