



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES**

**Steven L. Beshear**  
Governor

Division of Child Care  
275 East Main Street, 3C-F  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40621  
Telephone: 502-564-2524  
Fax: 502-564-3464  
<http://chfs.kv.gov/dcbs/dcc/>

**Audrey Tayse Haynes**  
Secretary

**STARS Rating Approval Letter**

Dear STARS Participant:

Congratulations! Your program has been awarded a STARS for KIDS Now rating. The rating level is indicated on the enclosed certificate. The program's name will be placed on a list of programs participating in STARS for KIDS Now. This achievement signifies a program's commitment to improving the quality of child care in Kentucky.

Programs may apply for a reevaluation of its current STARS rating six (6) months from this issue date on the certificate. Requests to renew a STARS Certificate must be submitted 60 days prior to the date of expiration.

**In order for your certificate to remain valid, an interim report is to be submitted annually, except the year you are rated for renewal (as outlined below). Failure to complete the interim report may result in a reduction of your STARS level or a possible withdrawal from the program.**

**An Environment Rating Scale (ERS) visit will be required as outlined below.**

*A quality rating certificate shall be renewed by a quality rating visit every:*

*Year for a Level 1 rated center;*

*Two (2) years for a Level 2 rated center;*

*Three (3) years for a Level 3 rated center; and*

*Four (4) years for a Level 4 rated center.*

The local STARS Quality Coordinator can be reached at 1-800-956-8950 for technical assistance for future ratings and renewal processes.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us at 502-564-2524.

Sincerely,

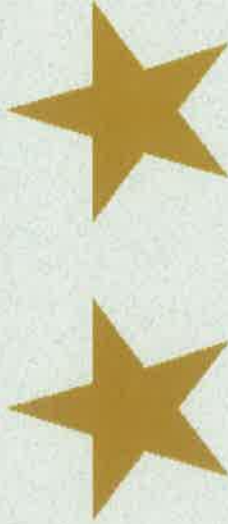
*Mary Beth Jackson*

Mary Beth Jackson  
Director  
MBJ/  
Attachment



Department for Community Based Services  
 Cabinet for Health and Family Services  
 Division of Child Care  
 Certifies that

**Bear Care II Taylorsville Elementary**



located at 206 Reasor Street, Taylorsville, KY  
 has met the standards for **LEVEL TWO** for the  
**STARS for KIDS NOW Program**  
 Kentucky's Child Care Quality Rating System.

Date Issued: **8/1/2013**  
 Expiration Date: **7/31/2015**  
 License/Certificate Number: **L357956**

This certificate is issued under regulations 922 KAR 2:170 and 922 KAR 2:210. The holder of this certificate is subject to the terms and conditions of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.  
 This rating certificate is not transferable.

*Mary Beth Jackson*

Mary Beth Jackson  
 Director  
 Division of Child Care





Name of Facility:	<b>Bear Care II Taylorsville Elementary</b>	STARS Level:	<b>★ ★</b>
Address:	<b>206 Reasor Street</b>	Standards Visit Date:	<b>04/23/2013</b>
City, State, Zip-Code:	<b>Taylorsville, KY 40071</b>	Standards Visit Level:	<b>2</b>
License/Certificate #:	<b>L357956</b>	Environment Visit Date:	<b>06/12/2013</b>
# of Rooms Assessed:	<b>2</b>	Overall Score:	<b>4.2</b>

Room Name:	<b>Pre-school</b>	Age Group:	<b>Pre-school</b>	Average Score:	<b>4.7</b>
Space And Furnishings:					
1.	Indoor Space			Rating:	<b>7</b>
	<b>All indoor space used for child care provides for free movement, shall be clean, in good condition, and allow for natural light and ventilation to be controlled. Spaces shall be accessible to those with differing abilities.</b>				
2.	Furnishings for Routine Care, Play and Learning			Rating:	<b>6</b>
	<b>All furniture, including adaptive furnishings for those with differing abilities, shall be safe, convenient to use, support children's independence in meeting their routine care needs and in conducting their play and learning activities.</b>				
3.	Furnishings For Relaxation And Comfort			Rating:	<b>6</b>
	<b>Soft furnishings and toys shall be clean, in good condition, with a minimum of four (4) furnishings that are accessible during play opportunities. Softness shall be separate from active physical play areas with children appropriately being supervised while on furnishings to ensure intended use.</b>				
4.	Room Arrangement for Play			Rating:	<b>6</b>
	<b>The arrangement of the room or space shall be organized to allow and provide for independent use in clearly defined interest centers including those for quiet and active play.</b>				
5.	Space For Privacy			Rating:	<b>7</b>
	<b>Staff shall set up activities in private areas separate and protected from play of other children. Areas shall be within staff supervision and accessible to children a third of the day.</b>				
6.	Child-Related Display			Rating:	<b>4</b>
	<b>Developmentally appropriate materials relative to the activities of the children in the group shall be displayed at eye level. The majority of the display shall represent creative expression by children and include three-dimensional work.</b>				
	<b>Rater Comment:</b>				
	<b>At least 30% of the art display should be closely related to recent activities of children in the group and 50% of art displayed should be child created.</b>				

License/Certificate #: L357956

7. Space for Gross Motor Play

Rating: 4

All spaces regularly used for gross motor play shall be safe, organized for different types of activities, easily accessible, and be protected from the elements. Outdoor space shall provide for two types of surfaces and provisions made for easy use by staff and children (ex. water, bathrooms, and equipment).

**Rater Comment:**

Gross motor space (indoors and outdoors) must be considered safe for children. In addition to a fence being needed around outdoor play areas, some form of protective barrier (bollards, guardrails, etc.) must also be provided when the playground is within 50 yards of a parking area or roadway.

8. Gross Motor Equipment

Rating: 4

Gross motor equipment includes both stationary and portable variations. All equipment shall be safe, in good condition, and age-appropriate, while providing opportunities for building a variety of skills for all children.

**Rater Comment:**

Gross motor equipment is to include both stationary and portable variations. Equipment is to provide opportunities for building a variety of skills for all children.

Personal Care Routines:

9. Greeting/Departing

Rating: 6

Transition times (arriving and leaving) shall be times of pleasant interactions and information sharing with children and parents. Children shall participate in interesting activities until departure with staff helping them as needed.

10. Meals/Snacks

Rating: 2

Caregivers shall use meal times as occasions to promote children's independence and self help skills. All preparation and service of meals and snacks shall meet USDA guidelines.

**Rater Comment:**

Sanitary conditions must be maintained. When cleaning tables for meals and snacks, a soapy water solution is to be used first then a bleach-water solution is applied and left on for 2 minutes before wiping with a clean cloth or disposable paper towel.

11. Nap/Rest

Rating: 4

Times and spaces used for nap/rest shall be flexible and suitable to resting. Quiet activities shall be provided for children who sleep less than others.

**Rater Comment:**

All cots or mats should be placed at least 3 feet apart, regardless of whether or not there is a solid barrier. Staff states that mats are placed apart the length of a child's arm.

12. Toileting/Diapering

Rating: 7

Toileting/diapering follows all sanitary practices. It includes pleasant interactions and adequate supervision. Routines and equipment encourage learning skills needed for independence.

License/Certificate #: L357956

13. Health Practices

Rating: 6

**Children and adults shall follow recommended health procedures to limit the spread of infectious disease.**

14. Safety Practice

Rating: 2

**Appropriate safety practices consists of a combination of diligent supervision by adults and minimizing hazards in all spaces used by the children.**

**Rater Comment:**

**Safety hazards are to be minimized indoors and outdoors. Playground adjacent to parking lot must also have protective bollards in place in addition to fencing.**

Language-Reasoning:

15. Books And Pictures

Rating: 4

**All story times either initiated by staff or by child shall promote interest in a diverse assortment of age-appropriate books and materials. Books and materials are organized, accessible a third of the day, shall be rotated and be relevant to current activities or themes.**

**Rater Comment:**

**Staff should be observed at least once during the observation, conducting "informal" reading.**

16. Encouraging Children To Communicate

Rating: 6

**Staff shall use activities and materials to encourage talking and listening skills throughout the day. Staff show a connection between talking and written words through writing or assisting children in printed language.**

17. Using Language To Develop Reasoning Skills

Rating: 6

**Staff shall provide materials and opportunities to help develop children's understanding of concepts and ideas as children express interest or attempt to solve problems.**

18. Informal Use Of Language

Rating: 7

**Language stimulation provided by staff to the children throughout the day shall occur informally, in response to situations that arise spontaneously. This includes social and cognitive interactions.**

Activities:

19. Fine Motor

Rating: 7

**All fine motor materials shall be age-appropriate, accessible for a third of the day, and organized for independent use.**

License/Certificate #: L357956

20. Art

Rating: 4

All art materials shall be age-appropriate, accessible for a third of the day, and promote creative expression. Materials that include height, depth, and width shall be included to some degree. A connection between art activities and other classroom experiences shall be represented. The materials shall provide opportunities for extension of skills (e.g. projects that last over several days).

**Rater Comment:**

Individual expression should be encouraged through art work. Most art work displayed were items that clearly follow an example or copied coloring pages.

21. Music And Movement

Rating: 3

Staff shall provide a variety of materials, types of music, and activities daily (in both free play and group settings) that promote creativity and expand on their understanding of music.

**Rater Comment:**

There should be many musical materials accessible to the children that includes not only musical instruments but music to listen to on a tape player or CD player.

22. Blocks

Rating: 6

All block materials and accessories shall be age-appropriate, plentiful, organized, accessible for a third of the day, and in a play space located out of traffic.

23. Sand/Water

Rating: 4

Staff shall provide equipment and materials daily indoors and outdoors needed for sand and water play that offer opportunities for a variety of experiences.

24. Dramatic Play

Rating: 6

All dramatic play materials shall be age-appropriate, accessible for a third of the day, organized for independent use, and provide for a variety of themes. Materials shall be used to enhance other classroom activities, including outdoor play.

25. Nature/Science

Rating: 6

All nature/science materials shall be developmentally appropriate, accessible a third of the day, well organized, and include current events to help children understand the world. Hands-on activities utilizing books, pictures, audio or visual materials that require more staff input are offered at a minimum of every two weeks.

26. Math/Number

Rating: 4

All math/number materials shall be developmentally appropriate, accessible a third of the day, well organized, and include daily experiences. Hands-on activities requiring staff input shall be offered at a minimum of every two weeks. Materials shall be rotated at least monthly.

**Rater Comment:**

There should be many materials present for learning about math and numbers and should include materials for measuring and comparing quantities.

27. Use Of TV, Video And/Or Computers

Rating: 5

TV, video, and computers shall be used in a developmentally appropriate manner adding to children's experiences. Staff are actively involved in technology-based learning activities. Materials and/or software encourage creativity and shall be related to current themes and activities.

License/Certificate #: L357956

28. Promoting Acceptance Of Diversity

Rating: 7

**Staff are culturally responsive and provide daily activities, materials, books, and pictures that promote acceptance and understanding of diversity.**

Interaction:

29. Supervision Of Gross Motor Activities

Rating: 4

**Staff shall be diligent in their supervision of gross motor activities. Interactions shall be positive and encourage social and physical development.**

30. General Supervision of Children (Other Than Gross Motor)

Rating: 4

**Staff shall observe every child carefully in their supervision of all play activities and adjust appropriately for different ages and abilities. Interactions are positive, while also being sensitive to children's need to play independently. Staff shall ask questions, add information, or provide resources for children to extend their thinking during play activities.**

31. Discipline

Rating: 2

**Staff shall use appropriate disciplinary methods effectively and seek advice from other professionals concerning behavior problems when needed. Children shall be actively involved in solving their own problems and conflicts.**

**Rater Comment:**

**Non-punitive disciplinary techniques should be used effectively. The ages and abilities of children should be considered in determining behavioral expectations of the group. Staff stated to child that he needed to sit in circle or put his head on the table.**

32. Staff-Child Interactions

Rating: 4

**Staff shall interact with all children in a way that lets them know they are valued and respected. Staff model this by showing interest, appropriate warm physical contact, and respect.**

33. Interactions Among Children

Rating: 4

**Peer interaction shall be positive with staff serving as the model for good social skills in all interactions with others. Collective problem solving shall be part of this interaction.**

Program Structure:

34. Schedule

Rating: 2

**A written schedule of classroom activities shall be posted, provide for a variety of activities (both planned and spontaneous), including indoor and outdoor play periods for a third of the day. Transitions shall be smooth without long periods of waiting.**

**Rater Comment:**

**Children should be taken outdoors unless there is active precipitation or weather advisories are in effect instructing people to remain indoors. Staff state that children are taken outdoors unless there are storms or it is above 90 degrees or below 46 degrees.**

License/Certificate #: L357956

35. Free Play

Rating: 2

**Free play shall take place for a third of the day both indoors and outdoors. Appropriate supervision is used as an opportunity for extra learning during free play activities. New materials and experiences are added monthly.**

**Rater Comment:**

**Play periods should occur each day both indoors and outdoors.**

36. Group Time

Rating: 4

**Whole group gatherings are appropriate for ages and abilities of children. Times for different groupings are provided for a third of the day (e.g. self-selected small groups). Staff have conversations with children, ask questions, and provide information. They introduce new materials and resources to help children learn.**

**Rater Comment:**

**Whole group gatherings should be limited to short periods and suited to the individual needs of the children.**



License/Certificate #: L357956

Room Name: <b>School Age</b>	Age Group: <b>School Age</b>	Average Score: <b>3.7</b>
<b>Space And Furnishings:</b>		
1. Indoor Space		Rating: <b>4</b>
<b>Children experience a spacious environment that is clean, comfortable, inviting and allows for a variety of activities.</b>		
2. Space For Gross Motor Activities		Rating: <b>2</b>
<b>Daily opportunities exist for indoor and outdoor play with convenient access to the outdoor area. The play areas are separated for older and younger children. Areas provide for ample space with different types of surfacing for large muscle activity.</b>		
<b>Rater Comments:</b>		
<b>Space for gross motor play is safe and appropriate to include a fence around play area as well bollards, guardrails or natural barriers if play area is less than 50 yards from parking lot or roadway.</b>		
3. Space For Privacy		Rating: <b>4</b>
<b>Children need easily supervised spaces where they can have time alone, away from group settings. This space can be set up by staff or created by children with materials of their choosing.</b>		
4. Room Arrangement		Rating: <b>3</b>
<b>Space and materials are arranged and designed to allow for a wide variety of age appropriate activities that appeal to children's interests. There are three or more interest centers in which frequently requested materials are organized and accessible. Supplementary materials are also on hand. An appropriate space with resources is set aside for children completing homework.</b>		
<b>Rater Comments:</b>		
<b>Space is arranged so that there at least three interest centers clearly defined. Area designated as quiet spaces are separated from noisier areas.</b>		
5. Furnishings For Routine Care		Rating: <b>7</b>
<b>Necessary furniture, such as tables and chairs should be appropriately sized and kept clean. There is individual storage of children's belongings.</b>		
6. Furnishings For Learning And Recreational Activities		Rating: <b>2</b>
<b>All furnishings allow for a wide range of independent learning and recreational activities. There is dedicated space for the display of the children's work.</b>		
<b>Rater Comments:</b>		
<b>Children have access to recreational materials.</b>		
7. Furnishings For Relaxation And Comfort		Rating: <b>3</b>
<b>A useable and comfortable space is provided for children to rest and relax. This space is clean and inviting. There is softness provided in other areas as well.</b>		
<b>Rater Comments:</b>		
<b>Children have regular access to soft furnishings.</b>		

License/Certificate #: L357956

8. Furnishings For Gross Motor Activities Rating: 5  
**Equipment is age appropriate and promotes a wide variety of skills that exercise large muscles and encourage creativity. Portable\stationary equipment is safe and accessible to children daily for individual and/or group play.**
9. Access To Host Facilities Rating: 4  
**A school age program has sufficient space for their exclusive use and daily access to other areas.**
10. Space To Meet Personal Needs Of Staff Rating: 5  
**Staff have areas separate from the children to relax and store belongings in an individualized secure location. A separate staff restroom is available.**
11. Space To Meet Professional Needs Of Staff Rating: 6  
**Staff have convenient access to a phone, sufficient file storage and office space. The space is well-located, conducive for conferences, and group meetings.**

Health And Safety:

13. Health Practices Rating: 4  
**Children are taught good nutrition and health practices by staff. Appropriate action is taken when children are ill to minimize the spread of germs. Parents receive information regarding any physical and mental health concerns and staff assist in finding needed resources.**
15. Safety Practice Rating: 1  
**Staffs provide adequate supervision and are proactive in minimizing potential hazards. Staff model and teach good safety practices to children and communicate safety concerns to parents. Evacuation drills are practiced, emergency phone numbers posted, and the first aid kit is well stocked at all times.**

**Rater Comments:**

**Outdoor space is safe and includes a fence surrounding play area as well as barriers or bollards if play area next to parking lot.**

16. Attendance Rating: 4  
**Attendance is recorded upon arrival and procedures for notification of absenteeism must be followed to ensure the safety of children transitioning from the school setting. Staff work with parents to address absences and promote consistent attendance.**
17. Departure Rating: 4  
**Staff ensures a safe departure for all children by teaching safety rules, proper supervision when transitioning to and from the site, and by only allowing an authorized adult access to a child.**
18. Meals/Snacks Rating: 4  
**Children are served foods that meet USDA nutritional guidelines and eat under sanitary conditions. Staff sit with children in small groups during mealtime promoting a social atmosphere. Menus are posted and parents receive nutritional information about food and their child's eating habits.**

License/Certificate #: L357956

19. Personal Hygiene

Rating: 2

**Children are taught good health practices and proper hand washing. Staffs provide clean restrooms and ensure tissues, toilet paper, soap, and paper towels are within reach of children at all times. Children brush their teeth after eating.**

**Rater Comments:**

**Children have access to paper towels for use after washing hands.**

Activities:

20. Arts And Crafts

Rating: 4

**Children are given opportunities for free art daily. Materials and opportunities to create art projects at a beginning and more advanced level are available to children.**

21. Music And Movement

Rating: 1

**Children have music and movement activities available to them as well as a range of materials to encourage self expression. Instruction to groups or individuals is given on a weekly basis.**

**Rater Comments:**

**Children have access to musical instruments or music materials (CD player).**

22. Blocks And Construction

Rating: 5

**Block play, with a substantial number of blocks and accessories are available to the children in an appropriate play space. Children have access to age-appropriate carpentry tools and supplies for wood-working projects.**

23. Drama /Theater

Rating: 3

**Dramatic play gives children opportunities to discover an array of roles and responsibilities. Space, time, many different kinds of props and materials, pictures, stories, trips, and supportive staff enhance dramatic play and drama productions.**

**Rater Comments:**

**Children have access to a variety of dramatic play materials and staff assist with play.**

24. Language/Reading Activities

Rating: 3

**A sufficient number of appropriate books and language materials are within easy reach of children. Staff respond and play a part in language games. Children are encouraged to use reading\writing in practical situations, bring books from home, and have weekly opportunities to go to library.**

25. Math/Reasoning Activities

Rating: 4

**Children are provided with many math games and activities on differing levels. Older children encouraged to help the younger children with the more difficult activities. Staff encourages children to use math skills in play and in routines.**

License/Certificate #: L357956

26. Science/Nature Activities

Rating: 1

**Children have direct experiences with nature and science with a wide range of materials within easy reach. Staff encourages experimentation and questioning and familiarizes children with new ideas. Staff extend science opportunities with field trip(s).**

**Rater Comments:**

**Children have access to science equipment and materials.**

27. Cultural Awareness

Rating: 3

**Staff do not stereotype children in any way. Children are encouraged to play with many multicultural materials, including non-gender specific materials (Ex: Materials showing women or men as doctors, pilots, firefighters, chefs, etc.). These materials are within easy reach to educate children on people's differences and accepting these differences. Plans are made to incorporate multicultural activities into the curriculum.**

Interaction:

28. Greeting/Departing

Rating: 5

**Younger children transitioning from school are to be escorted to and from the school age program. All children are to be welcomed by the staff and engaged in activities upon arrival. Staff use greeting \departure times to share information with parents.**

29. Staff-Child Interactions

Rating: 5

**Staff respond consistently and mutual respect exists among staff and children.**

30. Staff-Child Communication

Rating: 4

**Staff have conversations with all children. These exchanges are frequent and allow for a balance between listening and talking in a warm and supportive environment. Staff ask questions (why, how, what if) to expand children's thinking.**

31. Staff Supervision Of Children

Rating: 5

**Close supervision provided in activity areas and potentially dangerous situations. Staff support and extend children's play, giving praise for their efforts and providing instruction when input\coaching is needed.**

32. Discipline

Rating: 4

**Staff involve children in setting rules and utilize non-punitive discipline practices. The discipline policy is shared with parents in writing. A consultant is available for staff questions.**

33. Peer Interaction

Rating: 5

**Evidence of staff modeling and promotion of social skills are apparent in children's positive interactions and problem-solving skills. Staff listens attentively to children and offer feedback to extend problem-solving skills.**

34. Interaction Between Staff And Parents

Rating: 4

**The program is welcoming and regular conferences are held with all parents. Program provides information pertinent to families including cultural activities. Parents are made fully aware of policies and procedures and play an active role in decision making.**

License/Certificate #: L357956

Program Structure:

37. Schedule

Rating: 4

**There is a consistent routine that provides a balance of activities designed to meet individual needs and fosters physical, cognitive, social and emotional growth. Daily outside gross motor time unless weather prohibits. The schedule meets the needs of different age groups and provides smooth transitions between activities and allow for flexibility. Field trips are provided occasionally.**

38. Free Choice

Rating: 4

**Children are permitted to select materials and companions and manage play independently. There are a variety of play materials that are of interest to children and that encourage development and extend creative play. New materials are provided periodically.**

License/Certificate #: L357956

### Best Practice References

American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care, 2011. Caring for Our Children, National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, Third Edition.

D. Cryer, T. Harms & C. Riley. 2003. All About the ECERS-R (Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale Revised). A detailed guide in words and pictures to be used with the ECERS-R.

D. Cryer, T. Harms & C. Riley. 2004. All About the ITERS-R (Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale Revised). A detailed guide in words and pictures to be used with the ITERS-R.

NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children). 2009. Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children Birth through Age 8. Third Edition.

S. Sandall, M. Hemmeter, B. Smith & M. McLean. 2005. DEC Recommended Practices, A Comprehensive Guide for Practical Application in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education.

# STARS



Kentucky Invests in Developing Success

## PRESS RELEASE

When choosing child care...are you looking for the STARS?

STARS FOR KIDS NOW is a voluntary rating system for licensed and certified child care programs. Programs are given a 1 to 4 STAR rating. All STAR levels are measureable quality indicators above the state minimum requirements.

\_\_\_\_ (Enter Name of License or Certified Program Here) \_\_\_\_\_ is participating in the STARS for KIDS NOW Program.

\_\_\_\_ (Enter Name of License or Certified Program Here) \_\_\_\_\_ has been awarded a \_\_\_\_ (Enter STAR Level Here) \_\_\_\_\_ STAR rating, indicating that the program is seeking quality standards beyond the requirements for facility licensure.

STAR ratings are based on factors associated with good outcomes for young children such as staff to child ratios, program curriculum, and staff education and training. Children who are cared for in safe, stable, and nurturing environments tend to develop effective social skills, and more likely to be well prepared to enter school.

Child care programs that participate in STARS FOR KIDS NOW are eligible for achievement and incentive awards that will help to maintain and increase quality standards. Child care professionals can access a college scholarship fund, and have technical assistance from specially trained personnel to assist their program in meeting the quality standards that are a part of STARS FOR KIDS NOW.

The \_\_\_\_\_ (Enter Name of License or Certified Program Here) \_\_\_\_\_ child care program is participating in STARS FOR KIDS NOW as a way of indicating to parents and others in the community that program staff are working to provide appropriate and safe care for children each and every day.

To contact the \_\_\_\_\_ (Enter Name of License or Certified Program Here) \_\_\_\_\_ child care program, call \_\_\_\_\_ (Enter Contact Name Here) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ (Enter contact number Here) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Remember!!**

**When choosing child care...LOOK for the STARS!!**