



September 26, 2017

Dear Parent,

Congratulations!

You have selected Hometown Child Care, an early learning program that has achieved the Silver Circle of Quality through ExceleRate Illinois, the state's new quality recognition and improvement system for early learning and development programs. ExceleRate Illinois recognizes a program's commitment to quality beyond the basic state licensing requirements (which cover seven broad areas including staffing, programming, health, safety and hygiene). The Silver Circle of Quality shows that your child's program has gone the extra mile to make sure your child receives the enhanced learning and care experience.

What does this ExceleRate Illinois Circle of Quality mean to you and your child? Regardless of the specific Circle of Quality, recognition by ExceleRate Illinois shows that your child's program has met specific standards of quality and is helping to give your child a good start in learning and in life.

About ExceleRate Illinois

ExceleRate Illinois focuses on four areas: 1. Teaching and Learning, 2. Family and Community Engagement, 3. Leadership and Management and 4. Qualifications and Continuing Education.

The **Silver Circle of Quality** recognizes completion of a rigorous self-assessment and implementation of a continuous quality improvement process, as verified by an independent assessor. Silver Circle programs meet or exceed specific quality benchmarks on learning environment and instructional quality, along with selected program business standards; provider qualifications; and professional development.

For more information on ExceleRate Illinois, please visit: www.exceleRateillinois.com.

Thank you for recognizing the importance of quality early learning programs for your family. We encourage you to take a moment to congratulate your program's director and staff on their achievement.

Sincerely,

Cynthia L. Tate, Ph.D., Executive Director,
Governor's Office of Early Childhood
Development

Diane Grigsby Jackson, Director,
Division of Family and Community
Services, Illinois Department of
Human Services

Cynthia Zumwalt, Early Childhood
Division Administrator, Illinois State
Board of Education

George Vennikandam,
Acting Deputy Director,
Division of Licensing,
Illinois Department of Children
and Family Services