

# Your News from <sup>The</sup> Aspire Registry

Connecting Early Childhood  
Professionals in New York State

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## Do you know about **QUALITYstarsNY** ?

QUALITYstarsNY is New York State's quality rating improvement system (QRIS). A QRIS is used to assess and improve the level of quality in all types of early childhood programs. Participating programs are evaluated by QUALITYstarsNY and given a rating from one to five stars. Included in this rating process is an on-site assessment of the learning environment.

Early childhood experts and stakeholders across the state developed a different set of Standards for each modality of early learning program (centers, public schools, family/home providers). The Standards were created to define best practice in early childhood settings, to ensure the quality of children's daily experiences and to promote positive child outcomes. There are four categories of standards: Learning Environment; Family Engagement; Qualifications & Experience; and Management & Leadership.

But the process doesn't end with a rating. What's so important about QUALITYstarsNY is that the focus is on continuous quality improvement. Each program is

assigned a Quality Improvement Specialist who works with them to identify opportunities for growth and plan for next steps. Quality Improvement Specialists support programs to get a higher rating and ultimately to provide a higher level of care for children and families.

Participation in QUALITYstarsNY starts with The Aspire Registry. Both systems launched together in 2012, which means that QUALITYstarsNY participants were some of the very first Aspire members! This year, we plan to work even closer with the 600 existing and new QUALITYstarsNY participants. Over the past few months, The Aspire Registry has been meeting with our various stakeholders to discuss how to use Aspire reports for file review. We are excited to announce that in 2016 licensors across the state will have the opportunity to use Aspire reports to facilitate file reviews for QUALITYstarsNY participants.

If you work in a QUALITYstarsNY program, we want to hear from you! The Aspire Registry is here to help get you up to date and keep you there. Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have.

**FAST FACTS** New York Works for Children has gone Social! We are officially on Facebook. Here are some quick and fun facts about our Facebook progress thus far.

facebook

New York Works for Children officially launched its Facebook page in November 2015.

Like

As of January 1, 2016 we have 550 followers on our page.



We had our very first Facebook raffle. The first 200 members to like our page were entered into a drawing to win a New York Works for Children "SWAG Bag".

Congratulations to our Facebook raffle winner Ingrid Trouve from Sayville, New York. Stay tuned, Ingrid will be featured in an upcoming spotlight!

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**children**  
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# Coaching In Early Childhood: What's Happening in NY



We are delighted that we can continue to share more about what we have done as a state to strengthen the systems that support our early childhood professionals. One of the areas where New York is hard at work is through the development of specific competencies for coaches. The NY Early Childhood Advisory Council Workforce Development Workgroup was charged to develop specific definitions and standards to support our coaches, and now New York has joined 21 other states who have also accomplished this important task. Below you will find some more information about what coaching is and how New York Works for Children is supporting the work moving forward.

## What is coaching?

*“Coaching is a relationship-based process led by an expert with specialized and adult learning knowledge and skills, who often serves in a different professional role than the recipient(s). Coaching is designed to build capacity for specific professional dispositions, skills and behaviors and is focused on goal-setting and achievement for an individual or group.”*  
(Adopted from NAEYC)

## Why is it important to have coaching competencies?

They are necessary to delineate the specific knowledge, skills and dispositions required for coaches in our state that align with the national definition stated above. These competencies will be put into practice beginning in 2016 and they will aim to:

- ☀ Support coaches by defining work and supporting development.
- ☀ Support professionals and programs by increasing access to quality coaching.
- ☀ At system-level, support consistency and high standards.

## Now that we have the competencies, what is next?

New York Works for Children (NYWFC) and the New York State Association of Young Children (NYSAEYC) developed a six-part professional development series for those who are or will be providing coaching services throughout the state. This series aim to provide the support that coaches need to move the work forward and increase our coaching capacity. To keep up with the work we are doing, feel free to visit the NYSAEYC website or stay tuned for more newsletter updates.



**Victory Riedy**  
DAY CARE CENTER DIRECTOR

**SPOTLIGHT** Each newsletter will highlight a different early childhood professional to showcase the important work you do! This month's newsletter features Victory Riedy, the director of a day care center that participates in QUALITYstarsNY!

Victory Riedy has always loved working with children. Growing up, she was always drawn to children and how they learn. After earning a degree in Business, Victory worked in banking running an equity product, but she felt like something was missing. That feeling pushed her to go back to school and earn her Master's Degree in Education. Today she owns Victory Child Care, Inc., which runs Club Fed Child Care Center and EPK/UPK in the Albany City Schools, as well as a Family Reading Partnership for the community. Victory takes joy in supporting and mentoring her teaching staff to help them grow in their practice, as it is quality teachers that greatly influence the children in their classrooms and the community as a whole.

“Working with children under the age of five is like being a rock star, only better - they provide so much love and generosity towards you while at the same time, you gain so much joy in knowing that you can make a difference during the most important time in their lives.”