



pennsylvania
OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT
AND EARLY LEARNING

November 22, 2010

Ms. Kristen D. Grimm
Executive Coordinator
National Early Childhood Program Accreditation
1150 Hungryneck Boulevard Suite C305
Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

Dear Ms. Grimm:

Thank you for submitting the necessary materials for recognition of an accrediting agency in the Keystone STARS program. Following a formal review, the application has been approved.

The research provides evidence that NECPA accreditation is a reliable indicator of quality, showing a strong association to the ERS score and Keystone STARS rating. The narrative provides clear documentation of the methods for data collection and analysis. Another strength of the report is the wealth of data on provider characteristics and quality indicators.

A follow-up report will be needed for renewal after 5 years (November, 2015). That report will review quality indicators such as STAR ratings and ERS scores, for facilities that a) apply for NECPA accreditation, b) achieve NECPA accreditation, and c) fail to achieve accreditation. OCDEL will work with you to provide data for the follow-up report. If the Keystone STARS Standards or NECPA standards or procedures change dramatically prior to 5 years, additional information or alignment could be requested. Please contact me with any questions you may have about OCDEL's review of this report or the 5-year report.

Once again, OCDEL thanks you for submitting the application, which has been approved, and for your continued commitment to high quality early care and education in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah S. Mathias".

Deborah Mathias
Bureau Director
Office of Child Development and Early Learning
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