

St. Paul Child Development Center “Steps Up”

The Step Up to Quality program from the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services helps families identify early childhood providers who demonstrate a commitment to quality care. Step Up to Quality programs go beyond what is required because they strive to do better for their children’s and families’ futures. Our St. Paul CDC Director, Katy Smith, and Assistant Director, Jenny Martinez, are participating in this program.

The program is based on meeting quality standards regarding curriculum, learning environments, teacher-child interactions, child outcomes, professional development and training, family engagement and partnerships, and program administration. They reached step one in the five-step process last December, and on August 20, they received notification that they have now reached step two. An incentive bonus of \$500 is paid by the Nebraska Department of Education for achieving Step 2.

Step Up to Quality is not a typical rating system—it’s a path. Whether a child care provider is at Step 1 or Step 5, they are making a statement: that they want to be the best they can be for the benefit of their children and families.