



## Agency Happenings

### Jackson-Vinton Community Action Head Start Receives Three Star Quality Award



Jackson-Vinton Community Action Head Start Southview and Vinton County Centers received a three star rating for their participation in Step Up to Quality, the highest rating available from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Bureau of Child Care Development Agency.

Step Up to Quality is a voluntary three-star quality rating system administered by ODJFS that recognizes and promotes early care and education programs that meet quality benchmarks over and above minimum health and safety licensing standards.

The rating standards include low child to staff ratio, smaller group size, higher staff education, on-going specialized training, improved workplace characteristics, and early learning standards. Participating centers earn a one-, two-, or three-star rating by meeting an extensive list of quality benchmarks that exceed licensing standards. Experts say these benchmarks improve the growth and development potential of children.

“We are pleased to receive these awards, which tell families we’re serious about quality,” said Head Start Director Molly Seimetz in a *Jackson County Daily* article. “Our Star Rating means we have more, and better educated teachers working to prepare children for kindergarten with a higher degree of professionalism.”

Congratulations to Jackson-Vinton Community Action’s Head Start program!