



Media Alert: Photo Opportunity

Stars Arrive at Early Learning Center

**Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc.
Wins State Award for Excellence in Early Care and Education**

Date: December 2, 2008
 For Release: **December 10, 2008 (press conference details below)**
 Contact: Tina Marker, 937.545.9654 or tina@windward-design.com



In recognition of its excellent child care program and its ongoing commitment to children, **Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc. has received a prestigious Two-Star Step Up To Quality Award** from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services - Bureau of Child Care and Development. This state agency is responsible for licensing and promoting high standards among Ohio's child care programs.

A press conference will be held:

Wednesday, December 10, 2008
 10:15 a.m.
 Belmont Center
 2323 Mapleview Avenue
 Dayton, Ohio 45420
 (map attached)

Headquarters

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 Dayton, Ohio 45402
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Clark & Madison Offices

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President/CEO

Mary Burns

Board Officers

George E. Loney, Chair
 Patricia A. Lomax, Vice-Chair
 Benjamin Speare-Hardy II, Treasurer
 Christy Norvell, Secretary

Trustees

Kenneth P. Abrams
 Steven L. Goubeaux
 Ellen Leffak
 Maria Messer
 Carla Rhoades

Premier Head Start Provider!

Montgomery, Clark, and
 Madison Counties

Equal Employment Opportunity

“We congratulate Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc. for its high-quality early care and education program that goes above and beyond Ohio’s licensing standards. By reaching for the stars, Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc. is helping our youngest children develop in a warm, nurturing environment that fosters growth and a love for learning,” said Terrie Hare, Chief, Ohio Bureau of Child Care and Development.

Step Up To Quality is a voluntary rating system for early care and education programs. By meeting an extensive list of quality benchmarks, participants can earn a one, two, or three-star rating. Experts say these benchmarks improve the growth and development potential of children. The rating system also gives parents a useful tool for selecting quality early childhood programs.

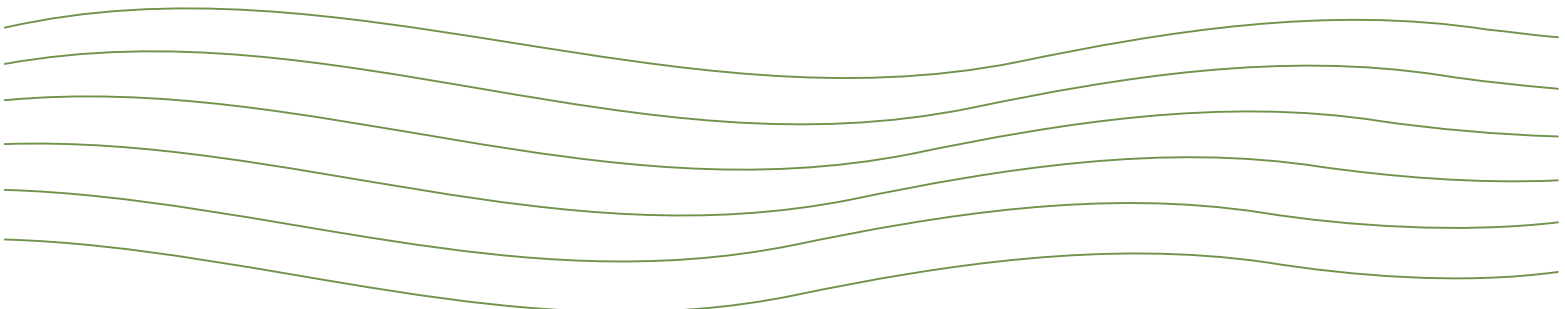
Two-Star Step Up To Quality programs meet the following criteria:

- Have a ratio of one teacher for every five infants (ages birth-12 months), one teacher for every six infants (ages 12-18 months), one teacher for every seven toddlers (ages 18-36 months), one teacher for every ten preschoolers (ages 36-48 months), one teacher for every 10 preschoolers (ages 48-60 months) and one teacher for every 16 school-aged children (ages 5-15 years).
- Half of the lead teachers have an early childhood education certificate or degree, are familiar with Ohio’s Early Learning Content Standards and have specialized training in language and literacy.
- Teachers have ten hours of child development training per year, above licensing requirements.
- Employees are offered at least two employee benefits, which results in a lower turnover rate.

“Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc. is honored to receive this award. Our ongoing focus is on excellent care and the education of our children. This Two-Star award lets families know that our commitment to children is more than just lip-service,” said Mary Burns, president.

Achieving these benchmarks is crucial for the future of Ohio’s children as more children are cared for outside of the home. Ninety percent of brain development occurs before the age of five. Children enrolled in high quality early learning programs, particularly low income children, are more likely to stay in school, attend college, earn more money and be employed in high-skilled jobs than their peers.

Step Up To Quality is available statewide. Visit www.stepuptoquality.org for more information.



ABOUT Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc.

Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc. was incorporated in 1964 as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation. The agency began providing comprehensive Head Start services to low income children ages three to five years in 1965. Today, Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc. is funded to serve 2,569 children ages 3-5 years and 102 children ages 0-3 in Clark, Madison, and Montgomery Counties, Ohio. Funding is provided through the US Department of Health and Human Services; Administration for Children and Families; and the Ohio Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education.

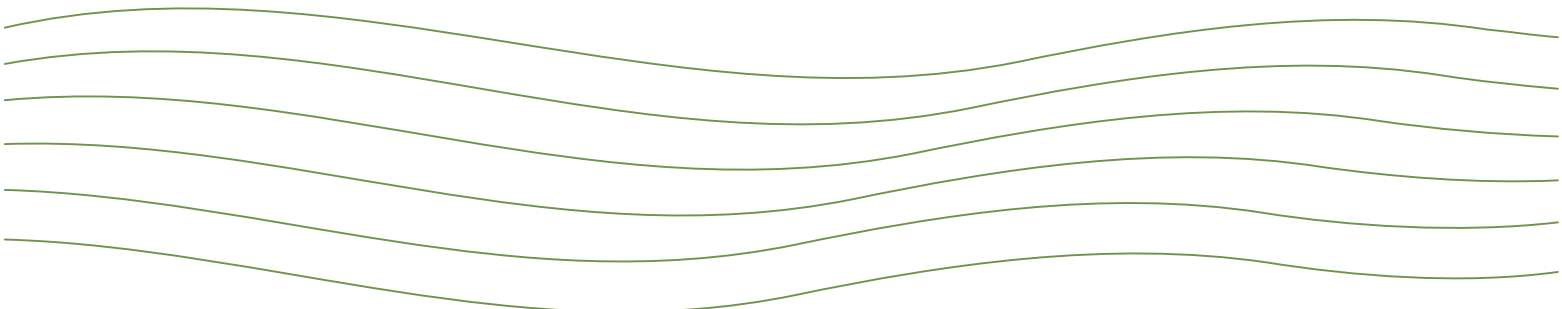
While focusing on literacy and school readiness, Head Start is not solely a reading program for poor children. Head Start serves disadvantaged children ages zero to five years by preparing them for school. Each child is assessed at the beginning of the school year and periodically throughout the year. Results are regularly reviewed and tabulated to determine each child's progress and what is required to assist in their continued development.

A primary focus of this effort is an emphasis on helping families by teaching parenting skills and life skills. We work holistically with each child and family through a balanced approach of parent involvement, health, nutrition, social competency, literacy and numeracy development. This combination is what ensures that Head Start children will be ready to learn when they enter kindergarten.

Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc. is successful because accountability is the backbone of our programs.

ABOUT Head Start

Created in 1965, Head Start is the most successful, longest-running, national school readiness program in the United States. It provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families. More than 22 million preschool aged children have benefited from Head Start.



Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc.
Belmont Center
2323 Mapleview Avenue (modular building outside of High School)
Dayton, Ohio 45420

Press Conference – Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at 10:15 a.m.

