



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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### **Kutztown Child Development Center Earns STAR 4 Rating** *BCIU Facility Awarded Highest Possible Designation by Keystone STARS*

KUTZTOWN, PA – The Kutztown Child Development Center has earned a STAR 4 rating – the highest possible – from Pennsylvania’s Keystone STARS Child Care Quality Program. The Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU) operates the Kutztown center.

It is the second BCIU child care center to receive the STAR 4 rating; the Hamburg School-Age Center was the first. Eleven child care centers in Berks County now hold the STAR 4 rating. Only three percent of the state’s 5,020 participating child care programs have earned that honor.

An initiative of the commonwealth’s Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), the Keystone STARS program serves, according to the Pennsylvania Keys Web site, to “improve, support, and recognize the continuous quality improvement efforts of early learning programs in Pennsylvania.”

The program is based on performance standards grouped into four levels, STAR 1-4, with each level building on the previous one using what the Web site calls “research-based best practices to promote quality early learning environments and positive child outcomes.”

The Kutztown Child Development Center’s STAR 4 rating means that it has met tough standards regarding “staff qualifications and professional development, the early learning program, partnerships with family and community, and leadership and management,” said Michelle Wunder, M.Ed., project manager for BCIU Child Care.

Located in the Greenwich-Lenhartsville Elementary School at 1457 Krumsville Road, Lenhartsville, the center provides multi-level programming for an average of 30 children, ages 3-12. It offers before- and after-school care, full-day care for school-age children during the summer, and early learning for preschool children throughout the year.

“We’re beyond thrilled to have earned the STAR 4,” said Erica Felty, director of the Kutztown center. “The Keystone STARS program is voluntary, and we’re proud to be a part of an initiative that encourages us to continually improve our standards of care.”

For more information on the Kutztown Child Development Center’s services, contact Felty at 610-756-6339 or via e-mail at erifel@berksiu.org.

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