[Date here]

DEAR PARENTS & FAMILIES,

We have exciting news to share with you!

[Insert child care facility name here] has been recognized by Nebraska Step Up to Quality for its commitment to quality child care and education. This means we are going above and beyond state licensing requirements to better serve the needs of your child and prepare them for success.

Why does this matter?

Did you know that 90 percent of brain development occurs before age 5?

The type of child care you choose for your child can have a *big* impact on their future. Early learning builds the foundation for skills needed in school, work and life, and studies show the benefits of early learning extend far beyond kindergarten. Children who receive quality early care are more likely to graduate high school, attend college and earn higher wages.

What is Step Up to Quality?

Step Up to Quality is the state of Nebraska’s Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). A QRIS helps states assess, improve and communicate the level of quality of early childhood programs. Programs are awarded quality ratings for meeting a defined set of program standards.

Where can I learn more?

To learn more about Step Up to Quality, visit [stepuptoquality.ne.gov](http://stepuptoquality.ne.gov/)