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## Groups pushing for new early childhood program

By: Patrick Card

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- Two local childcare groups are pushing for a new program they say will help improve the quality of early childhood education.

The Child Care Resource Network and the Belle Center are spreading the word about a program called QUALITYStarsNY.

The program would implement a five-star rating system, like hotels use, for assessing early childhood care programs.

About a dozen education centers statewide have been testing the new program, including the Belle Center.

"We want to make sure that we're providing the best quality care for these children," said Belle Center Executive Director Nestor Hernandez.

"Being able to go through these assessments is important for us as an organization, to know where we need to make changes or to improve our quality of service for these families."

Legislators and program administrators both expressed optimism that the program would be adopted by the state in the next few years.



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