

# Child Care Provider **NEWS FLASH**



NEWS ABOUT THE TENNESSEE CHILD CARE REPORT CARD AND STAR-QUALITY PROGRAM

## Ask Me About PSAM

Soon you will notice DHS Licensing Program Evaluators, CCR&R Specialists, TOPSTAR mentors, and TECTA staff wearing “Ask Me About PSAM” buttons. **PSAM**, pronounced “P-SAM,” stands for **Provider Self-Assessment and Mentoring**—is a new service being funded by the Tennessee Department of Human Services and delivered to you by the Tennessee Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

Starting soon each CCR&R will begin offering PSAM services to providers, to teach providers about the overall assessment process, including the different ways to meet the requirements of the *Environment Rating Scales*, and what Assessors look for during an assessment. Specially trained CCR&R Specialists will help center directors and family/group providers use their past assessment results and their new knowledge of the scales to make strides toward quality improvement in their child care programs. Each participant will actually use the scales to assess part or all of his/her own program, thus gaining insight into how quality improvement can be planned for and achieved.

As you think about making a commitment to participate in PSAM, keep the following benefits in mind.



- In-depth training on the *Environment Rating Scales* and the self-assessment process
- Assistance in understanding your assessment results
- Meetings with peers for support and team building
- Training hours for Targeted Technical Assistance
- Individualized help on-site to improve program quality
- Purchasing Grants for participants who have at least one child enrolled in the child care certificate program and are in good standing with DHS

Call your local CCR&R today for more info on PSAM.