

# PRESS RELEASE

## VIPS Awarded Five Star Rating *First in Jefferson County to Receive Honor*

LOUISVILLE, KY. – *Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS)*, a nonprofit that provides early intervention and education services to young children with vision loss, was recently awarded the top Five Star Level from Kentucky All STARS, a quality rating and improvement system for early care and education programs. The honor was presented to the agency’s Kids Town Preschool Program, Kentucky’s only full-time preschool for young children with blindness and visual impairments. Kids Town Preschool is a center-based program in Louisville and includes:

- Preschool (ages 3 & 4)
- Pre-K (age 5)
- Two-Day-2’s (age 2)
- Summer Enrichment (ages 2-6)

Kentucky All STARS recognizes programs that have made a commitment to continuous quality improvement. Studies show that children who attend high quality early learning environments have better math, language and social skills.

“Five stars is the highest level of recognition possible and to reach it on our first attempt is quite remarkable. While we have known of the quality of our programming in Kids Town all along, it’s nice that there is now a recognizable way to share this knowledge with others. One of our missions at VIPS is to educate the community on the abilities of individuals who are blind or visually impaired, including current and future educators. What a wonderful way for us to continue with this mission and to emphasize that children with special needs not only deserve good education, they deserve a FIVE STAR quality education.” - Kathy Mullen, VIPS Director of Education

Approximately 50 children in the Louisville Metro area attend Kids Town Preschool at VIPS. The program is nationally accredited by AdvancED, the world’s largest community of education professionals.

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### ***About VIPS***

VIPS empowers families by providing educational excellence to young children with visual impairments in order to build a strong foundation for reaching their highest potential. VIPS served nearly 450 children and their families across Kentucky and Indiana last year. For more information, visit [www.vips.org](http://www.vips.org). For more information about Kentucky All STARS, visit <http://kidsnow.ky.gov>.

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