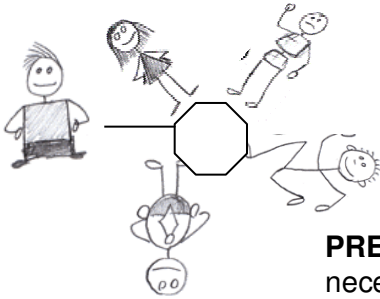




BRAND NAME: **Quality Pre-K** (kwol-i-tee pree-K)

CLASS AND MECHANISM: Pre-K belongs to a class of early childhood interventions whose purpose is to prepare 3 and 4 year olds for lifelong success in school and in life. The exact mechanism of action is to provide high-quality Pre-K including qualified, well-compensated, specialized teachers; adequate funding; and early learning curriculum and monitoring at the appropriate dosages and with a route of delivery that reflects the needs of families and communities. High-quality Pre-K is quickly metabolized and provides necessary ingredients for growing minds and healthy bodies.



PRESCRIPTION: YES.

GENERIC AVAILABLE: NO.

PREPARATIONS: Adequate funding and quality monitoring is necessary. Transportation and support for planning necessary.

- Provide \$600,000 for *Qualitystars NY*, the proposed Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS).
- Maintain funding for Pre-K at FY 08-09 levels for two years.

PATIENT INFORMATION: High-quality Pre-K should be taken by all 3 and 4 year olds.

PRESCRIBED FOR: High-quality Pre-K is indicated for future success, healthy development, and school readiness of our youngest children. Provides cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development opportunities. Immediate health benefits include required immunizations, links to family services, nutritious meals, and other health screenings such as vision, hearing and development. Long-term benefits include future school success, lower mental health rates of depressive symptoms, higher test scores, higher graduation rates, higher post-secondary enrollment rates—all of which positively correlate with greater individual economic success. High-quality Pre-K is also indicated for the economic success of our state and nation and for reducing crime and ensuring school success. Necessary to ensure a WINNING BEGINNING.

DOSING: Full-day, universal Pre-K

Dosage should be taken immediately and consumed in its entirety. Dual therapy may include high-quality child care and home visiting.

ACTIVE COMPONENTS FOR HIGH-QUALITY PRE-K:

- Early learning standards and evidence-based curriculum which is age-appropriate and builds on a child's interests and curiosities.
- Teacher degree— Lead teacher must have a BA, at minimum.
- Teacher specialized training—Lead teacher must have specialized training in a Pre-K area.
- Assistant teacher degree —Assistant teacher must have a CDA or equivalent, at minimum.
- Teacher in-service —Teacher must receive at least 15 hours/year of in-service professional development and training.
- Maximum class size —Maximum number of children per classroom must be 20 or lower

- Lowest acceptable ratio of staff to children in classroom—maximum number of students per teacher) must be 1:10 or better.
- Screening/referral and support services —Screenings and referrals for vision, hearing, and health must be required; at least one additional support service must be provided to families.
- Meals—At least one meal must be required daily.
- The curriculum provides daily learning opportunities for language and reasoning, science, math, block play, dramatic play, art, and music.
- The curriculum provides learning opportunities in a variety of settings, including whole-class activities, work in small groups, and individual interactions with the teacher.
- The curriculum supports the development of each child's home language and helps each child learn English.
- The curriculum provides integrated learning across children's cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development.
- Monitoring —Site visits must be used to demonstrate ongoing adherence to state program standards.

INTERACTIONS: Reduced funding will limit children's access to and quality of Pre-K. Limited state funding will result in unqualified or under-compensated teachers. High-quality Pre-K is crucial to this prescription and does not simply include high quantity of enrolled students. In order for Pre-K to be successful in patients, the above listed active components must be met.

SIDE EFFECTS: Will result in lower rates of special education, grade retention, drug abuse, and smoking. Will also result in improved physical and emotional health, lower rates of crime and related costs, and increased future employment rates. This prescription is a proven and effective method for closing the achievement gap. Note: high-quality Pre-K will result in eager learners, early readers, growing minds, a healthy start towards future life success, and more stable families and communities.

PRECAUTIONS: Not investing in high-quality Pre-K will lead to adverse health and community effects. Research shows that high-quality Pre-K has a long lasting impact on a child's life success. Investments in Pre-K yield significant returns. For every dollar invested in quality early education, society saves between \$4 and \$8 in avoided costs associated with crime, and delinquency, welfare participation, special education, and remedial education. In the future, should we choose to ignore these risks, we will not compete in the global economy, business leaders will not have the qualified workforce they need to succeed, and taxpayers will inevitably spend more money in avoidable costs such as crime and welfare. Investing in Pre-K is cost effective.

If recommended dosing of high-quality Pre-K is not taken during the critical window for brain development (age 0-5), an important opportunity to influence lifelong health and learning is missed. Research shows that children who are behind in reading by first grade only have a 1 in 8 chance of ever catching up and those who are poor readers in third grade are unlikely to graduate from high school. One in five kids are not ready for kindergarten, and high-quality Pre-K gives children the boost needed to jump start their success!

Providing children with quality early learning experiences supports life long health and success. We must ensure universal and quality Pre-K to all 3 and 4 year old children.

Read the dosing instructions carefully. Any sacrifices in ingredients, preparation, or quality will render ineffective. Consult Docs For Tots should you have any questions about dosing, side effects, or precautions.

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