



Issue #32  
October, November, December 2017



### Our Mission

To enhance and support a quality early childhood education system by providing resource and referral services to families, child care programs, and communities.

### Wisconsin Rapids Office

1107 West Grand Avenue  
Wisconsin Rapids | WI 54495

office hours:  
8:30am - 4:30pm  
715-423-4114

### Wausau Office

1500 Merrill Avenue, Suite 201  
Wausau | WI 54401

office hours:  
9:00am - 5:00pm  
715-301-1800

Both Childcaring locations accommodate office hours by appointment

1.800.628.8534  
www.childcaring.org  
info@childcaring.org



# The Resource Connection

## Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education Training Available In-Person or ONLINE

The problems that children develop due to child abuse and neglect have negative impacts that ripple across a lifespan, affecting children’s chances to succeed in school, work, and relationships. The Strengthening Families initiative is a strength-based approach to preventing child abuse and neglect. Strengthening Families is a Center for the Study of Social Policy initiative that uses research-based evidence to find out what factors really reduce child abuse and neglect. This training explores the connection between factors that prevent child abuse and neglect and what quality early childhood programs can do to support them.

This course is available online December 4-10. The online course is self-paced for participants to complete within a seven day period. Participants will earn 3 hours of registry approved education hours. “This training has so much important information to support families. We hope with the added online course option, we will see even more child care providers participate in this valuable strengthening families training,” said Kelly Borchardt. Register for the ONLINE Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education training: <http://tinyurl.com/ycnhbmga> The number of participants is limited and registrations will not be allowed after Friday, November 17.



An in-person option is also available Monday, November 20 at Redeemer Learning Center, in Tomahawk. See our training calendar on page 4 for more information and additional training options. Plan to attend the trainings you need before the end of the year.

# YOUNGSTAR CORNER

## What YoungStar Questions Do YOU Have?

Have you decided not to participate in YoungStar? Or have you selected an Automated Rating?

Do you have questions about the Technical Consultation available to you or the Technical Rating process?

We would be happy to sit with you and answer any questions you might have.

We've met with many providers who have had misconceptions about YoungStar like:

- 1. Do I have to go back to school?** NO, not necessarily. We can talk about what options work best for your situation and goals.
- 2. How do I get a Micro Grant?** All programs that participate in Technical Consulting receive a Micro Grant! You are eligible every year you participate.
- 3. Who will be here in my program?** Typically, just one Childcaring staff member. We schedule up to 10 hours to meet with you, when it's convenient for you! Services do need to be complete within a 20 week window.

Give us a call so that we can answer your specific questions!  
1-800-628-8534

### 2017 Business Information Forms Still Needed:

If you haven't yet, please fill out and return your Business Information Form (BIF) to Childcaring as soon as possible. Call or email us for a direct link to your program info to make updates online. We appreciate your help with this. Your completion of this form allows us to give out accurate information.

## Congratulations Chelsey!

We would like to introduce the newest member of our Childcaring Family, Chelsey's baby boy, **Corbin Carmody!** He was born 9-14-17 at 7:20 pm, 7 lbs 8 oz, 19 inches.



## Childcaring Staff

**Kelly Borchardt** ~ Executive Director

**Micki Krueger** ~ Assistant Director

**Linda Francis** ~ Office & Financial Manager

**Kristine Joyce** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist

**Mary Olson** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist

**Susie Sandow** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist

**Lori Shafranski** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist

**Carrie Steinke** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist

**Chelsey Thill** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist

**Kao L. Xiong** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist/  
Bi-Lingual

**Gayle Schiszik** ~ Training Coordinator/Certifier/  
Pre-licensing Consultant

**Rachele Johnson** ~ Program Coordinator

**Tracy Verjinsky** ~ Program Coordinator

**Jessica Frick** ~ Resource & Referral Specialist

**Shelley Nelson** ~ Referral & Communication Specialist

**Sarah Agena** ~ Child Physical Activity & Nutrition  
Consultant/Flexible Nutrition Solutions, LLC  
(Independent Contractor)

## Provider Support / Advocate Groups

### Adams, Clark, Langlade, Marathon Marquette & Waushara County:

Contact Childcaring if interested in developing an advocate group at 800.628.8534

### Portage County:

Portage County Child Care Association  
Joan Garski at 715.341.5873

Portage County Leaders  
RoxAnne Forrest at 715.346.4370

### Lincoln County: Contact

Dolly Tanck at 715.536.7581

### Taylor County: Meet the 3rd Monday of month

For more information, call Kelly Emmerich at 715.748.6192

### Wood County:

Marshfield Area Child Care Association  
Krisann Mauritz at 715.387.2218

Wisconsin Rapids Child Care Advocates Council  
Jamie Lane 715.323.2546

# Congratulations to these child care providers for recently completing the Child Physical Activity and Nutrition Program:

**Little Wigglers and Giggles**, Plainfield  
**MCCDA Head Start**, Wausau  
**Stoddard Center Head Start**, Kronenwetter  
**KM Czech Head Start Center**, Wausau  
**Community Child Care Center**, Stevens Point

During the past several months with the guidance from a health consultant these facilities worked on nutrition and physical activity goals that they found important to their individual facilities. For more information or to participate in the CPAN program at no cost contact Sarah Agena at sarah@childcaring.org or call 1-800-628-8534.

*Testimonial from*  
Nicole Guthrie  
Director of Education Services/Associate Head Start Director  
Marathon County Child Development Agency – Head Start Program

*"Sarah Agena, Child Physical Activity and Nutrition Specialist, has been such a delight to work with! She has taken the time to meet with our MCCDA Head Start directors to assess our individual program needs. While meeting with the staff, Sarah discussed goals and offered great insight on additional physical activity and nutrition program improvement. In addition, she took time to train our entire staff on the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. Sarah's passion and love for physical activity and nutrition is evident in the way she is able to connect with her audience. I would highly recommend other organizations to take advantage of this exceptional program!"*



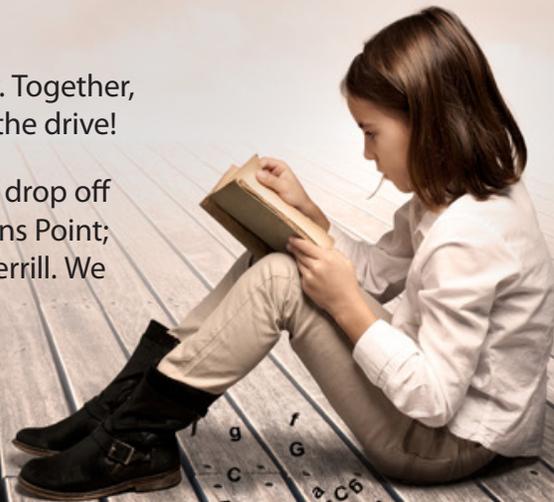
## ONCE UPON A BOOK DRIVE COLLECTS THOUSANDS OF BOOKS FOR WISCONSIN CHILDREN IN NEED

Childcaring, with Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA) and SFTA's member CCR&R and FRC agencies statewide, is proud to conclude the fourth annual *Once Upon a Book Drive* with over 2,700 books collected for Wisconsin children in need.

Childcaring collected 630 of these books to distribute locally. Together, we have collected over 23,200 books in just 4 short years of the drive!

A special thank you to the organizations who served as local drop off sites for the book drive: Portage County Public Library, Stevens Point; Lester Public Library of Vesper; and T.B. Scott Free Library, Merrill. We hope to continue this partnership in the years to come.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



# Training Opportunities

Visit our online training calendar for the most up-to-date training opportunities.

## Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3)

This workshop examines the benefits of childhood developmental screening, research supporting the use of the ASQ-3, how to score the questionnaire, prepare a written summary for parents, share the results with parents, and appropriate follow-up (including the referral process). The ASQ-3 is discussed as a parent-engagement tool and the relationship between the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standard and teaching cycle are also explored.

- **Thursdays, October 19 & 26 (5:30pm-8:30pm)**  
**Must attend both sessions**  
**Childcaring, Wisconsin Rapids**  
**FREE Training - Limited to 20 participants**  
**Register by Thursday, October 12**

## \*CPR with AED

Cost to attend:

\$48.50 Classes are 6:00pm-9:00pm at Childcaring, Wausau Office

- **Monday, October 23**
- **Thursday, November 2**

## Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention

Training in identification, prevention and the grave effects of SBS.

- **Thursday, November 9 (10:30am-12:00pm)**  
**Childcaring, Wisconsin Rapids**  
**\$15/ Register by Thursday, November 2**

## Strengthening Families in Early Care and Education

The Strengthening Families initiative is a strength-based approach to preventing child abuse and neglect. A component of this training is aligned with and meets the bi-annual Licensing and YoungStar requirements to complete training in Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Mandated Reporting.

- **Monday, November 20 (6:00pm-9:00pm)**  
**Redeemer Learning Center, Tomahawk**  
**\$20 / Register by Monday, November 13**  
**Register online: <https://tinyurl.com/ybtfcgws>**  
**- OR - mail your registration form**

## \*Online - Strengthening Families in Early Care and Education

This online course is self-paced for participants to complete within a seven day period.

- **Beginning Monday, December 4-10**  
**\$20 / Register by Friday, November 17**  
**Online registration ONLY: <http://tinyurl.com/ycnhbmga>**

## Art from the Heart: Fostering the Creative Process in Children

Included within this training are hands on opportunities to learn how to incorporate art materials and concepts into your program and support children's experiences with art. Participants will explore the relationship of art within the Environment Rating Scales.

- **Tuesday, December 5 (6:00pm-9:00pm)**  
**South Wood County YMCA, Port Edwards**  
**\$20 / Register by Tuesday, November 28**

## Caring Hands:

### 4 Steps to Creating Balance in an Unbalanced World

Presented by: Dr. Richelle Hoekstra-Anderson, Clinical Psychologist and Life Coach at Crossroads Renewal Coaching and Counseling Services in Wisconsin Rapids.

Do you feel like your life is out of balance? Do you wonder if a balanced life is even possible? Good news, it is! In this engaging presentation you will learn: What a life out of balance looks and feels like  
Four simple strategies to create more peace and balance  
Practice these strategies right in the session  
Go home with renewed vigor and ideas to share with others  
Yes, a balanced life really is possible!!

- **Wednesday, November 1 (6:30pm-8:30pm),**  
**MSTC auditorium, Wisconsin Rapids**
- **Tuesday, November 14 (6:30pm-8:30pm),**  
**Streitel Conference Center at St. Joseph's Hospital,**  
**Marshfield**

Training is free of charge, to register please contact Childcaring by phone at 715-423-4114 or 800-628-8534 or by email at: [info@childcaring.org](mailto:info@childcaring.org)

## Parent Café

### MARQUETTE COUNTY PARENT CAFÉ SESSION: Healthy Limits-Giving Choices and Saying No

**Tuesday, October 10 (5:00pm-7:30pm)**  
**Westfield Elementary School**  
**329 Hawk Lane, Westfield, WI 53964**

### ADAMS COUNTY PARENT CAFÉ SESSION:

Planning for 2018 sessions is underway ~ check the Childcaring FB page for details.

#### What happens at a Parent Café?

Families will gather to enjoy dinner together. After dinner, the children will transition to a separate area and enjoy developmentally appropriate activities. Parents will gather together to begin the Parent Café. Parents will discuss various questions in small groups facilitated by a Parent Host.

FREE Dinner And Child Care Provided!

**Registration is appreciated** so we can plan appropriately for meals and child care. To register or for questions, contact Childcaring at 1-800-628-8534 or [info@childcaring.org](mailto:info@childcaring.org)



# Infant and Toddler Cohort Builds Relationships and A Professional Network

The Infant and Toddler Cohort, brought together 18 child care professionals at monthly meetings running from March to September. The Cohort, facilitated by Childcaring Technical Consultant, Mary Olson, (and interpretation provided by Technical Consultant, Kao Xiong), provided guided support to child care providers from group and family child care regarding topics and concepts specific to infant and toddler development and care.

"As the facilitator of this group, I was highly impressed with the willingness of participants to share their stories. Each person brought their strengths to the table and I saw growth in skills and the connection made between participants. I was also very grateful to be part of this group," said Mary Olson.

Infant and toddler development is rapid, diverse, and complex. Because of this, children need care that is fit for the level of development they are experiencing. The Cohort brought together professionals who work with children of this age to strengthen their skills, teach and learn from each other, and build a network.

Comments from Cohort participants about what they learned through this experience:

**"I learned how others teach and use different strategies in situations." "Diversity and culture is important and sharing it benefits everyone." "I made new friends, learned room changes, and took time for ME!"**

*This service is made possible by Supporting Families Together Association with funding from the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant at the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.*



(left to right)  
Back Row:  
Pammy Haefner, Peggy Bliese, Chelsey Tyznik,  
Krystal Haefner, Natalee Messmann, Maichao Lor,  
Ying Vang, Tong Vang, Brittney Nechuta,  
Jennifer Susnowski, and Anna Schimmel  
Front Row-Seated:  
Bowey Lee, Sue Lee, Mary Olson, and Mee X. Lao

## American Indian Studies Summer Institute

By: Kelly Borchardt

I was super excited and honored to be chosen as the recipient of a scholarship through Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA) to attend the 21st annual American Indian Studies Summer Institute from July 31 – August 4 in Crandon, WI sponsored by American Indian Studies Program through WI Dept. of Public Instruction, Forest County Potawatomi, Sokaogon Chippewa Community and the School District of Crandon. Check out this photo of David O'Connor, Education Consultant from the American Indian Studies Program and me! David was the brains and brawn behind putting together this awesome experience!



Although the week centered around Wisconsin Act 31 which mandates students and teachers in public school to receive instruction around American Indian nations and tribal communities in Wisconsin, I found it to be very relevant and extremely interesting as an early childhood professional and director of a child care resource and referral agency. Did you know that there are over 500 federally recognized Indian tribes in the US? Wisconsin is home to 11 of these American Indian Nations. As early childhood professionals, we have a moral

responsibility to the young children we care for and educate to promote and advocate for culturally relevant and authentic depictions of Native American people and customs. They are a rich and important part of our history. I wanted to take this opportunity to share some excellent resources that I learned about through my experiences with a variety of excellent speakers and educators during my week in Crandon. As part of the institute, we were welcomed by the Sokaogon Chippewa and the Forest County Potawatomi tribes for community tours. As a book lover and voracious reader, one of my favorite parts was the library at the Forest County Potawatomi Cultural Center. They have invested in an extensive library of books and resources on Native Studies for all ages. Check out the photo which highlights a section of the beautiful, culturally-rich mural painted on the walls!



Here are some great websites with FREE resources that will help you to create a more culturally sensitive environment for young children:  
<https://dpi.wi.gov/amind>  
<https://wpt.org/education/early-childhood>  
<https://wimedialab.org/>  
<http://theways.org/>

# Know Your Buyer, Know Your Supplier

## Farm to School Procurement Training Series

On August 22, Northcentral Technical College hosted a day-long farm to school procurement training and networking event in Wausau. This was one of five events offered throughout the state. The training provided local food procurement training, and an expert panel with local farm to school champions. Farmers, processors, distributors, and other farm to school practitioners met during the afternoon networking session. The goal of the training was to connect more Wisconsin-grown foods to early childhood sites, K-12 schools, colleges, and hospitals in the state.



Part of the training included "Digging into Wisconsin Farm to Early Care Education." Wisconsin Farm to ECE increases access to local foods and enhances the quality of education in all ECE settings through:

- Facilitating hands-on learning and play in food, nutrition, and agriculture
- Buying, preparing, and serving local foods in meals and snacks,
- Building on-site gardens, and
- Engaging families in health and wellness

Farm to ECE is a natural fit for children ages birth-6 years and offers extensive benefits for our youngest learners and eaters. For more information and resources visit: <https://dpi.wi.gov/community-nutrition/cacfp/farm-2-ece>



Child care providers Tanya Polansky - Play, Learn and Grow Child Care, and Jennifer Hanzlik - Building Blocks, sharing their knowledge and success in Farm to Early Care Education (ECE).

***Know Your Buyer, Know Your Supplier Farm to School Procurement Training Series was hosted by the Wisconsin Farm to School Steering Committee in partnership with regional partners. Funding provided by a grant from the USDA Farm to School Program. Childcaring is an ECE Support Partner Organization***



Left to right, front row:

Gayle Schiszik, Chelsey Thill, Kelly Borchardt, Sara Guild,  
Mary Olson, Kao Xiong;

Back row:

Susie Sandow, Lori Shafranski, Micki Krueger, Carrie Steinke

## August Recess 2017 / Baby's First Town Hall

Childcaring Staff met with Sara Guild, Outreach Director for Congressman Sean Duffy, August 31 as part of the Baby's First Town Hall campaign to ask legislators to prioritize child care and early education. 217,000 children are at-risk of losing access to child care that is proven to work if early education grants and programs like Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) are not fully funded in the 2018 budget. Programs like Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, afterschool programs, and child care on college campuses are all on the chopping block.

For more information visit:

<https://childcareworks.org/babys-first-town-hall/>

## Start with your goal(s), then go searching for your activities:

WMELS C.EL.2: Use tools to gather information, compare observed objects, and seek answers to questions through active investigation.

Cut a Styrofoam ball in half and hot glue one half to a 10-12" cardboard circle. Trim the bottom of the ball so the "balance" does not tip quite as easily frustrating the children. Explain how to place or remove items (such as counting bears, rocks, seashells, plastic animals) to keep the circle in balance.

What are other ways of creating a balance the children could use? What are questions that can lead to further investigation? How can we "balance" our bodies? Make connections to balancing items.



Submitted by: Beth Tepper, CESA 9

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) is a developmental screening tool. It is a quick and easy way to help parents and providers to see if a child is developing on track. The parent-completed tool, is scored by the provider. Based on the results, the parent-provider team make a decision on next steps. Watch for upcoming ASQ Trainings by Childcaring this fall.

## Healthy Choices

Join the 2017 Great Lakes Apple Crunch on October 12th.  
Sign up today!

<http://www.cias.wisc.edu/applecrunch/>

All Crunch sites will receive the updated 2017 Great Lakes Apple Crunch Guide with tips on finding local apples, integrating the crunch into school or early care curricula, and sharing your event via social media. This year we have new Crunch guides specifically for K-12 schools, ECE sites, and non-school sites. Some states are also offering free stickers when you register! Sign up today and be sure to share the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch with others!

2017 NAEYC  
**Annual Conference**  
November 15-18 | Atlanta, Georgia

naeyc  
annual conference

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS: TRIBAL-STATE-COUNTY-INDIVIDUALS

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**October 26-27, 2017**

WISCONSIN INTER-TRIBAL CHILDCARE ASSOCIATION  
**2017 FALL CONFERENCE**  
HO-CHUNK GAMING - WISCONSIN DELLS CONVENTION CENTER  
S3214 County Rd. BD, Baraboo, WI

**MAIN TOPICS TO INCLUDE:**  
Thursday Evening Fetal Alcohol Syndrome  
and Friday Compassion Fatigue by Guest Speaker  
Theda New Breast.

For more information or to register e-mail  
Cynthia De Florian at [Cynthia.deflorian@ho-chunk.com](mailto:Cynthia.deflorian@ho-chunk.com)  
or call 715-284-2622 ext. 5148



**C**  
**2017**  
**CONNECTIONS**

*a new way to learn, play and connect*

**WECA Annual Conference**  
**November 10-11, 2017**  
**Chula Vista Resort**  
**Wisconsin Dells**

Partnering organizations:  
Wisconsin Head Start Association  
and The Registry

## Wisconsin Rapids Office

1107 West Grand Avenue | Wisconsin Rapids | WI 54495

## Wausau Office

1500 Merrill Avenue, Suite 201 | Wausau | WI 54401



Childcaring is supported in part by:



Xav tau kev pab pes/txhais daim ntawv xovxwm  
no thov hu tuaj rau  
Kao Lai Xiong 715-301-1800  
Hnub Monday-Friday 9:00 txog 5:00.



*We would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday season.  
We look forward to working with you in the new year!*

## Vision

For all Central Wisconsin children to benefit from the best child care possible.

## 2017 Childcaring Board of Directors

Brad Gast, President

Donna Ginzl, Vice President

Nick Faber, Treasurer

Jane Brandt

Rebecca Hardell

Joan Krohn

Michelle Rantala

Tammy Schreiber

Nancy Vance

## Childcaring Board Spotlight: Joan Krohn

Hello Childcaring Friends! My name is Joan Krohn and I have served on the Childcaring Board of Directors for almost a year. I have been learning a lot and I am very impressed with the organization, the staff and the valuable work they do. Is there anything more important than investing in the well being of our youngest citizens? I know each one of you reading this newsletter is making a personal investment in children everyday and I want you to know you are appreciated! Thank you!



Early Childhood education has been my passion for the last 30 years. It was 30 years ago that our first child was born. I was a stay at home Mom for 12 years as three more children came along for my husband Jon and I. I did some very informal child care for my neighbors during that time. I treasure those years. When our youngest daughter entered Kindergarten I returned to teaching in the classroom. I taught for Merrill Area Public Schools for fourteen years. Ten of those years were teaching Head Start/Early Childhood students. In 2012 I became the Director of Head Start/Early Childhood and Community Four Year Old Kindergarten for MAPS. Children have taught me so much about joy, discovery, noticing the little things and the fun of learning. Even when young children face challenges they never give up on learning. What a privilege we have to learn alongside them. At the end of June 2017 I retired but I look forward to finding new ways to stay involved with children and their learning. Being on the Childcaring Board is an honor and a great way to continue to serve children with the wonderful group of professionals on the staff and on the board.