



Issue #35
July, August, September 2018



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

Learn, Develop, Grow – More Online Training Options Available

Looking for a flexible and convenient training option that fits into your busy schedule? Online training may be the answer for you. Supporting Families Together Association, along with the Child Care Resource and Referral agencies, are now offering online learning opportunities for child care providers. Our online learning initiative aims to offer high quality professional development opportunities that are responsive to the needs of Wisconsin child care providers.

This initiative was developed to offer affordable options for continuing education and increase access to the trainings that are needed and desired. This online learning initiative is driven by several factors including:

- Feedback from training participants
- Evolution of training delivery and technology
- Commitment to better meet the needs of the early childhood education field
- Need for improved training access and availability
- An aim to increase training delivery and participation
- A desire to be more cost effective in training execution

What questions do you have about taking an online training? Below are a few FAQ's:

Q) Am I required to complete the training in one sitting?

A) No. You can access the training as many times as needed throughout the seven day period and do not need to complete it all at once.

Q) If I need to ask you a question, how do I contact you?

A) It depends on what the question is. For training content questions you will be directed to either email the trainer or post questions to an online discussion group. If it's a question that is personal in nature, then you should email the trainer directly. For technical questions, the trainer will provide a contact through UW-Platteville at the start of the class.

Check out the training page of this newsletter for more information on upcoming online trainings. To view the most updated listing of all the Childcaring trainings available visit: <http://www.localendar.com/public/Childcaring>. Online courses are available across the CCR&R network's 10 Agencies and the CCR&R Network office: Supporting Families Together Association. Visit the SFTA website at <https://supportingfamilies.together.org> and click on Online Learning for Early Childhood Professionals under the Quick Links tab to view a calendar of online courses being offered by all CCR&R agencies. Please contact Childcaring with any additional questions you may have.

YOUNGSTAR CORNER

Wisconsin Farm to Early Care and Education: Considerations for Programs in YoungStar

Programs participating in YoungStar (Wisconsin's Child Care Quality Rating and Improvement System) work to improve the quality of care and education for children and engage with families. A new guide has been developed to offer farm to ECE considerations relevant to YoungStar.

The document includes examples of developmentally appropriate cooking and gardening activities for infants to school-age children, farm to ECE-themed books that reflect the diversity of people, their needs, and cultures, and farm to ECE-related materials and interest center ideas. In addition, resources to help support planning and tracking of healthy, local foods in meals and snacks are provided as well as tips for engaging staff in farm to ECE.

A wide array of family engagement ideas around farm to ECE are included such as take-home bag themes, participation in edible education storytelling programs, recipe contributions, and child pick-up in the garden. And of course, any activities that relate to health and nutrition are considered farm to ECE.

The document ends with four pages of further resources including links to multicultural songs, books, and recipes, farm to ECE curricula, information on cooking and gardening with children, and much more. Farm to ECE activities can indeed improve the quality of care and education of the children in your program. See this resource (<http://bit.ly/FarmtoECEYoungStar>) for a jump start or to add to your farm to ECE ideas!

Wisconsin Farm to Early Care and Education: Considerations for Programs in YoungStar

This guide offers considerations on how to support children in developing a positive connection to food while strengthening the health of children, families, teachers, and staff through farm to ECE activities.

Wisconsin Farm to ECE increases access to local, nutritious foods and increases the support for quality education in all types of ECE settings through:

- facilitating **hands-on learning and play** in nutrition, food, and agriculture;
- buying, preparing, and serving **local foods** in meals and snacks;
- building on site edible **gardens** or container gardens; and
- engaging **families and caregivers** in health and nutrition activities.

Programs participating in YoungStar (Wisconsin's Child Care Quality Rating and Improvement System) seek to improve the quality of care and education for children and engage with families. While the focus is on ECE concepts to view as some, many providers are already incorporating it into their daily activities. Specific ways to integrate farm to ECE into your program will be identified throughout this resource as relevant sections of the 2015/2020 YoungStar Evaluation Criteria are considered.

Thanks to Bridget Gullen and Kelly Ester for their review of this piece. This project is funded by the St. K. Anelli Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan.

Questions? Get in touch:
Jill Carlson, Community Farm to ECE Director, jill@communityfarmtoeceworks.org
Jill Carlson, Community Farm to ECE Trainer, jill@communityfarmtoeceworks.org
Gayle Schiszik, Farm to ECE Trainer, gschiszik@communityfarmtoeceworks.org
Phone: 608.245.0409



Updated May 2017

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
- Kao L. Xiong ~ Quality Improvement Specialist/
Bi-Lingual
- Gayle Schiszik ~ Training Coordinator/Certifier/
Pre-licensing Consultant
- Rachele Johnson ~ Program Coordinator
- Tracy Verjinsky ~ Program Coordinator
- Shelley Nelson ~ Referral & Communication Specialist
- Tara Biebl ~ Resource & Referral Specialist
- Sarah Agena ~ Child Physical Activity & Nutrition
Consultant/Flexible Nutrition Solutions, LLC
(Independent Contractor)

Provider Support / Advocate Groups

Adams, Clark, Langlade, Lincoln, 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

Taylor County: Meet the 3rd Monday of month
For more information, call Kelly Emmerich at 715.465.0993

Wood County:

Marshfield Area Child Care Association
Krisann Mauritz at 715.387.2218

Wisconsin Rapids Child Care Advocates Council
Jamie Lane 715.323.2546

Welcome Tara!



Hi, my name is Tara Biebl. I am the new Resource and Referral Specialist in the Wausau office. I have been working with children and families for over 20 years. I began my career as a First and Second Grade Teacher, then I taught Kindergarten for seven years, and then became the Center Director/Administrator. I earned my Early Childhood Degree from UW-Stevens Point and then my Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Viterbo University. I live outside of Arpin with my husband and 2 boys. I enjoy spending time with my family, hunting, watching movies, reading, and baking. I look forward to working with everyone ☺.

Are You Interested in Becoming a Child Care Provider?

Are you a parent looking to stay at home with your own children but can't quite afford not to work? Would you like to play every day while you're at work? Do 3 year olds make you laugh, especially when they ask questions like "why do balls bounce" or "why do dogs have tails"? If you answered YES to any of these questions you may want to consider a career in child care.

As a child care provider and owner of your own business, you get to decide your hours of operation and how much you'd like to charge. Child care providers have one of the most important jobs – the care and education of children during the most crucial early learning years. In order to protect you as the child care provider and the children in your care, WI has laws governing how many children a person can care for and provides regulations around offering child care in your home or group child care center. Wisconsin law requires that a person must obtain a license to operate a child care business if they care for four or more unrelated children under the age of seven years.

Let Childcaring guide you through the process of starting a child care business, including determining what type of program is the right fit for you and what tools, training, and resources you need to succeed. **Start-up grants are also currently available.** If you would like to make a difference in the life of a child and learn more about becoming a child care provider, call us for more information or attend one of these upcoming information sessions:

Thurs., August 2nd - Aspirus Langlade Hospital
(6:00pm-8:00pm) 112 E. Fifth Ave., Antigo, WI 54409
(Large Conference Room) Register by: Thurs., July 26
Funded in part by United Way of Langlade County



Thurs., August 9th – Wood County Annex and Health Center
(6:00pm-8:00pm) 1600 N. Chestnut Ave., Marshfield, WI 54449
(Formerly known as Norwood) Register by: Thurs., Aug. 2

Thurs., Sept. 20th - Wausau Childcaring Office
(6:00pm-8:00pm) 1500 Merrill Avenue, Suite 201, Wausau, WI 54401
Register by: Thurs., Sept. 13



Background Check Changes Are Coming!

Beginning fall 2018, there will be changes in the way background checks are conducted for prospective employees who begin working after 10/1/18 in licensed centers, and for new certification applicants (who apply on or after 10/1/18). For information on the changes, please visit the background check web page: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cclicensing/cbc-updates>. Check the site frequently for updates as more information becomes available.

Please note - It is recommended that Licensed centers continue to conduct annual name-based background checks on all existing employees hired prior to 10/1/18. The Department of Children and Families will notify programs when the responsibility for background checks on existing employees will transfer to DCF.



Training Opportunities

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

Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention

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

- **Thursday, July 19 (10:30am-12:00pm)**
Childcaring, Wisconsin Rapids
\$15 / Register by Thursday, July 12
- **Thursday, September 20 (10:30am-12:00pm)**
Childcaring, Wausau
\$15 / Register by Thursday, September 13
- **Thursday, November 15 (10:30am-12:00pm)**
Childcaring, Wisconsin Rapids
\$15 / Register by Thursday, November 8

Strengthening Families in Early Care and Education with Mandated Reporter

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.

- **Offered Online – Thursday, July 12-Wednesday, July 18**
\$20 / Register online by Tuesday, July 3

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

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.

- **Monday, July 16 (6:00pm-9:00pm)**
Cap Sell, Wautoma
\$20 / Register by Monday, July 9
- **Thursday, July 19 (6:30pm-9:30pm)**
Antigo Head Start
\$20 / Register by Thursday, July 12

The Process of Developing Child Portfolios

A workshop that will include information about the importance of portfolios and how to create them.

- **Offered Online – Thursday, August 16-Wednesday, August 22**
\$20 / Register by Mondayday, August 6
- **Presented in Hmong ~Saturday, August 25 (9am-12pm)**
United Way of Marathon County
\$20 / Register by Friday, August 10

Wisconsin Pyramid Model for Social Emotional Competence

The Pyramid Model training is an evidence based prevention/intervention framework created to prevent challenging behavior and promote healthy social and emotional development in young children. Participants will complete the Birth - 5 E-modules as well as receive reflective coaching in an online format.

- **Offered Online – September 1 through November 30**
\$60 / Register by Friday, August 24

Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards

A unique opportunity to understand and implement the WMELS into your early childhood setting.

(Must attend both sessions)

- **Saturdays, September 15 & 29 (8:00am-4:30pm)**
United Way of Marathon County
\$40 / Register by Friday, September 7

Developmentally Appropriate Environments: Environments and Curriculum Through the Lens of DAP

Participants will gain a greater understanding of the needs of a quality learning environment within the context of developmentally appropriate practices, Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards domains, and School Age Curricular Framework content areas, as well as receive a review of developmentally appropriate environments as required by YoungStar evaluation criteria.

- **Tuesday, September 18 (6:00pm-9:00pm)**
Rome Town Hall
\$20 / Register by Tuesday, September 11

Ages & Stages Questionnaire 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.

(Must attend both sessions.)

- **Wednesdays, September 19 & 26 (12:30pm-3:30pm)**
Lincoln County Service Center
\$30 / Register by Wednesday, September 12

CPR with AED

Cost to Attend: \$45.00, Book: \$5.00

Classes are 6:00pm-9:00pm at Childcaring, Wausau

- **Monday, August 13**
- **Tuesday, September 25**
- **Tuesday, October 23**
- **Tuesday, November 13**

Save the Date:

16th Annual Conference for Early Childhood Educators - Leading the Way

Saturday, September 22

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

More conference details coming soon ... this year the theme is social and emotional health

Mark Your Calendar for These Trainings:

- Healthy Bites: Nutrition for Children – October 10, Stevens Point
- Developmentally Appropriate Environments: Environments and Curriculum Through the Lens of DAP - November 7, Wausau
- Online – Strengthening Families in Early Care and Education with Mandated Reporter - December 6-12

EARLY TRAINING REGISTRATION IS APPRECIATED

Please note each training deadline. The number of participants registered can determine the decision to hold a training. Registrations received on time or early help us prepare for trainings most efficiently. Thanks!



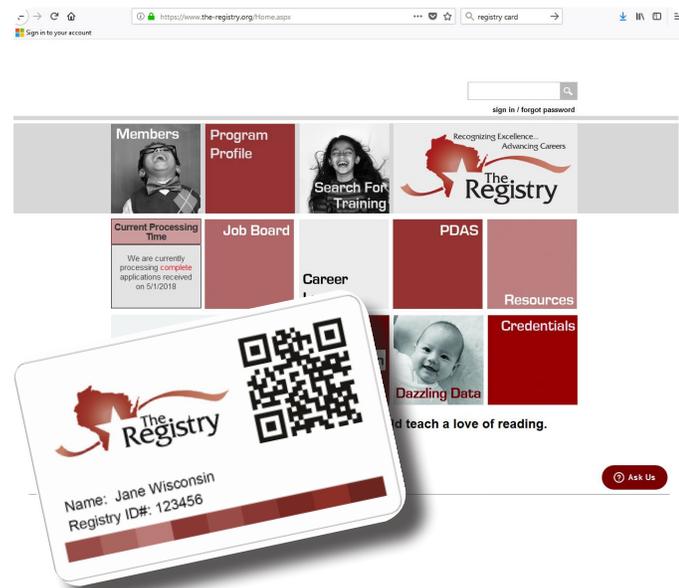
Childcare Physical Activity and Nutrition Program Provides a Healthy Foundation

Good nutrition and plenty of physical activity is essential to a young child's growth and development. These behaviors begin early in life and are fostered by the environment in which children live and play. Because many children spend much of their day in child care settings, child care providers are essential to the development of healthy behaviors.

Thanks to a funding partnership with the Aspirus Health Foundation, Childcaring is offering child care providers this FREE opportunity to work together with Health Consultant, Sarah Agena, to integrate more physical activity and healthier foods into the daily routine for children in their care. The Childcare Physical Activity and Nutrition Program (CPAN) is designed and proven to be user friendly, time and resource efficient, and easily integrated into a busy day.

During a 4-6 month period of time child care providers will work with Sarah to fill out a self-assessment survey; set up goals according to your survey results; attend a training and educational opportunity to help meet your physical and activity nutrition goals; receive ongoing support; and finally complete a post self-assessment. For every step of the program completed, participants receive incentives that will help them be successful in achieving their goals. Sarah will work with each program on an individual basis to achieve personalized goals and provide resources to achieve those goals. For more information or to participate in CPAN contact: Sarah Agena, MS, RD, Health Consultant / Phone: (715) 423-4114 /Email: sarah@childcaring.org

Funding for this program is provided in part by the Aspirus Health Foundation.



The Registry – Are You A Member?

Becoming a member of The Registry is easy and an important part of professional development. There is a place for all early care and education professionals on The Registry. This includes family providers, employees in group centers, staff in school-age programs, personnel in support organizations and others.

Register and pay online via The Registry for Childcaring Trainings

If you're already a Registry Member, simply sign-in and proceed with the payment process. If you're not a Registry Member, create a free account to register. Registering online is convenient and gives you the option to pay with your credit/debit card, eliminating the need to mail a check.

Bring Your Registry Card to Trainings

Current Registry Members will receive a Registry Card. If you are not a member or are an expired member, you can receive a card by joining The Registry or renewing your membership. A Registry Card helps ensure that you receive immediate verification for the training events you attend. The card will list your name, Registry ID number, and a QR code that allows Childcaring to quickly scan your card and accurately verify attendance, requiring less paperwork for you to complete.

Document Organization

Materials, certificates, and documentation that have been submitted and verified by The Registry are entered onto a member account during the application process. The membership profile can be accessed online at any time free of charge and can be used to construct a resume or fill in data gaps that might occur due to lost paperwork. Registry certificates are accepted by Wisconsin state licensing specialists. To earn more than two stars, the YoungStar process requires completion of both an organization account and an individual membership for all participant types (Family, Group and School-Age).

Create your Registry account today: <http://www.the-registry.org>
Have more questions? Contact the Registry at: 608-222-1123

Annual Once Upon a Book Drive Is Going On Now Until August 31

Once Upon a Book Drive is an annual effort on behalf of Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA), SFTA members, and community partners, to collect and distribute quality children's books to child care programs and families in need across Wisconsin.

The drive runs annually from June 15th through August 31st. During the book drive we accept new or gently used books that contain educational, appropriate content for children from birth to 12.

If you are considering a donation please keep in mind that while distributing books collected in previous years we saw a need for more birth-3 age books, so we are emphasizing donations of infant and toddler-aged books. Last year, Childcaring collected 630 books locally. Together, we have collected over 23,200 in just four years of the drive.

Please drop books off at the Wisconsin Rapids and Wausau Childcaring offices, Lester Public Library of Vesper, T.B. Scott Library in Merrill or visit the SFTA website for a book drop off site near you: <http://supportingfamilies.together.org/once-upon-a-book-drive/>



Do You Currently Have a Child Care Vacancy?

Update your openings with Childcaring often! Families requesting child care referrals from Childcaring are asking to see programs with openings. If they're not calling you, maybe it's because you have zero vacancies listed. Or, if you're receiving multiple calls but don't have openings, you may still have vacancies listed from your last update. To edit your vacancy information with Childcaring, email us at info@childcaring.org and ask for your individual profile link. Quickly, you'll be able to update your program information whenever it changes!



Child Find

Childcaring - A Community Partner in the Informed Referral Network

Child Find is a continuous process of public awareness activities, screening and evaluation designed to locate, identify, and refer as early as possible all young children with disabilities and their families who are in need of an Early Intervention Program (Part C) or Early Childhood Special Education (Part B) services of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

School districts are required to locate, identify and evaluate children with disabilities within their attendance area. To assist in this child find process, districts have developed "Informed Referral Networks." An Informed Referral Network is comprised of community partners, including Childcaring, that work together to serve young children and their families. Relationships with community partners have proven to be the most effective practice in identifying children with disabilities. These partnerships provide an opportunity to learn more about screening young children and providing information about community resources. This community network refers children who may have a disability and a need for special education. For more information about Child Find, please contact Childcaring.



Thank you Child Care Providers!

In celebration of Provider Appreciation Day, May 11 2018, Childcaring held a drawing to include the names of every regulated child care provider in our 10 county service area.

Three regulated child care provider names were randomly selected to win a gift card. Congratulations!

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

WMELS C.EL.2 Early Literacy: Understands concept that the alphabet represents the sounds of spoken language and the letters of written language. It's summer! The windows are open! - Identifying sounds that are happening outside (or inside) will help to later isolate letter sounds. Imagine having a unit around windows or famous houses (like in *The Three Little Pigs*) - you could create lots of opportunities to learn through play. For example, create a screened window that the children have to guess what letter is "outside making that sound" because they can hear through the screen. You could also provide a closed window made of plexiglass. The children could use "writing" to talk to the people inside. Challenge yourself to think of fun ways to help children experience written letters and their sounds.



Have some children inside and some outside with the blinds or curtains closed - have them say their name and see if the children on the other side recognize the name without seeing the child. Have them name a picture and see if the children can identify the word - all important for tuning in their ears!

Submitted by: Beth Tepper, CESA 9

FAMILY FUN!

CommUNITY Fest
Saturday, September 22
Expo Building, Marathon
Park, Wausau
9am-2pm

**Clark County
Family Fun Festival**
Saturday, September 22
Greenwood High School
10am-2pm

Healthy Choices



Parents and caregivers know how challenging it can be to get kids to eat enough fruits and vegetables, and gardening may help. An expanding body of research shows that when kids help grow fruits and vegetables, they are more likely to eat more produce and try different kinds, too.

The benefits of gardening don't end there. Gardening helps kids engage their curiosity, learn to be resourceful and gain self-confidence. It also is a great way to get the entire family outside for fresh air and physical activity. eatright.org

Childcaring Lending Library: Active Early and Healthy Bites Toolkits Available

Childcaring is excited to announce that we are now lending FREE Active Early and Healthy Bites Kits! The kits are available to support child care providers like you in promoting physical activity and healthy eating with the children and families in your program. Thanks to funding from the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant, the Active Early and Healthy Bites Kits are now available to all child care providers across Wisconsin. These kits contain a variety of materials, resources and information to support physical activity and good nutrition such as child-sized cooking implements and nutritional recipes, soft Frisbees and yoga cards just for kids. Aside from resources for use in your program, the kits include Home Activity Backpacks that children can wear home to continue to learn about nutrition and physical activity at home. This provides an important opportunity to support children's health and well-being and to encourage families to become more involved in your program. Contact Childcaring to learn more about how you can borrow the Active Early and Healthy Bites Kits!



Childcaring 2017 Annual Report Available Online

Check out the 2017 Childcaring annual report online at www.childcaring.org! Some highlights include:

- 982 participants attended Childcaring trainings
- 178 community meetings attended by Childcaring staff
- 273 out of 371 regulated child care providers participated in YoungStar
- 1,162 families were served through referrals
- 14 child care programs, reaching 450 children ages 2-5, completed the CPAN program

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.

Dates Closed:

Independence Day: July 4
Staff Retreat Day: August 14
Labor Day: September 3

Vision

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

2018 Childcaring Board of Directors

Brad Gast, President

Donna Ginzl, Vice President

Nick Faber, Treasurer

Joan Krohn, Secretary

Jane Brandt

Rebecca Hardell

Kelly Oleson

Michelle Rantala

Tammy Schreiber

Nancy Vance

Barry West

Childcaring Board Spotlight

My name is Barry West. I have had the privilege of being on the Childcaring Board of directors for four months. I was introduced to Childcaring Inc by a friend and was asked to join the board based on my Information Technology experience. I am excited for the opportunity and am honored to be considered. It is my desire to contribute as much knowledge as possible while also learning of what Childcaring does and can do. I have 2 children, one is 14 and the other is getting ready to turn 16. I am happily married to my wife Michelle for 18 years and we have a dog named Lady Bug.

I currently work for Waushara County as the Information Technology Coordinator. I am responsible for all of the Computer systems at the county and for all the infrastructure that is involved. I am responsible for the procurement of the technology related purchases, as well as creating and maintaining the budget for IT.

I look forward to having the opportunity to learn and grow from the other board members, as well as being able to assist in future endeavors.

