



SHARING THE NEWS

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This newsletter is for child care providers caring for children in the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program, a program which assists low-income families in paying for quality child care while participating in work activities.

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Change in Under-Utilization Policy

The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) implemented an emergency rule on March 30, 2008 to re-instate the under-utilization policy (UU50) of paying for hours where the child attends less than half (50%) of their authorized hours. This policy applied only to enrollment-based child care authorizations.

This emergency rule has been cancelled by the recent Legislative budget as of May 17, 2008.

Department of Children and Families

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) will officially open on July 1, 2008. It will unify more than 30 services currently divided between DWD and the Department of Health and Families Services (DHFS) to best serve children and families.



Reggie Bicha (pronounced "Beek-ah") will be the DCF Secretary and the e-mail address is dcf@wisconsin.gov. The headquarters will be located at 201 E. Washington Ave., 2nd floor, in Madison. DWD will be on the 1st, 3rd and 4th floors.

The DWD Child Care Section (CCS) will soon be the Bureau of Early Childhood Education, in the Division of Early Care and Education.

The DHFS Bureau of Regulation and Licensing will soon be the Bureau of Early Care Regulation, also in the Division of Early Care and Education.

Contact information for CCS will remain the same as it is now until further notice.

Higher Payments to Accredited Providers

Accredited providers qualify for higher reimbursement rates from the subsidy program. If accredited, the county or tribal maximum weekly rate is raised by ten percent (10%). If the provider's private-pay rates are above the county or tribal maximum rates, the authorized amount will increase. Here are the qualifying accreditation bodies:

Group Centers:

- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC): <http://www.naeyc.org>
- National Afterschool Association (NAA): <http://www.naaweb.org>
- City of Madison Accreditation

Family Providers:

- National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC): www.nafcc.org
- Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA): <http://www.wecanaeyc.org>
- Child Development Associate (CDA) National Credentialing Program: <http://www.cdakids.org>
- City of Madison Accreditation Satellite

The provider must submit an accreditation certificate by faxing it to 608-266-8302 or by mailing it to the DWD Child Care Section (CCS), PO Box 7935, Madison, WI 53707.

Recently, some providers have sent a college transcript hoping that a degree makes them eligible for a higher reimbursement rate. DWD 56, Admin. Rule does not justify a higher payment rate.

NOTE: Please do not send private-pay rate information to the DWD CCS because the rates cannot be entered into the payment system. Rate sheets must be sent to the county or tribal agency where the center is located.

Providers Caring for Children Who Live with Them

DWD has recently learned of some providers that have been caring for children who live with them. This is prohibited by State statute - Section s. 49.155(3m)(d):

“No funds distributed under [the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy] may be used for child care services that are provided for a child by a child care provider who is the parent of the child or who resides with the child; unless the county determines that the care is necessary because of a special health condition of the child.”

The term “parent” includes natural parents, custodial parents, foster parents, legal custodians, and persons acting in the place of a parent.

The only exception is when a person, who lives with the child, must provide the child care, due to the child’s special health condition.



The county needs to approve the arrangement. The parent must provide documents from a health care professional stating that the child has such a unique health condition that not having a parent or household member caring for him/her would jeopardize the child’s health.

Only the child with the special health condition would be excluded. Healthy siblings would need to attend another provider.

To minimize problems with this type of overpayment, please contact your child care coordinator or liaison immediately in these situations.

The provider/parent fact sheet has been revised: http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/publications/dws/pdf/dsw_10971_p.pdf.

Licensed Day and Night Capacity

Licensed providers have a maximum number of children who can be in their care. Providers who operate after 9:00 p.m. and before 5:00 a.m. have both day-time and night-time capacities listed on their licenses.



Licensed child care providers must remain awake and available to help the children, and the staff to child ratio must be maintained.

The Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program will not pay for night-time care if the provider is caring for more children than their license permits.

No Keys for Kids

Keys may cause lead poisoning in children. Some, especially those made of brass and nickel-silver, contain as much as two percent (2%) lead. Most brass house and car keys contain lead. Children can get lead in their bodies by:

- putting the keys in their mouths; or
- putting their hands in their mouth after playing with keys.

Don’t give keys to children to occupy them while shopping or doing chores. When children then put the keys or their hands in their mouths, the lead can get in their bodies-not once, but each time they play with keys! Lead poisoned children do not always look or act sick. The only way to know if a child has lead poisoning is to have a health care provider do a blood test.



Sources:

http://www.ucsfchildcarehealth.org/pdfs/factsheets/leadin_keysen011804.pdf

www.dhmc.org/dhmc-internet-upload/file_collection/leadin_keys.pdf

Thank you to the DWD Child Care Section’s Child Care Information Center for providing this article: <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/ccic/>.