Give your child a great start.

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access this information in an alternate format, or need it translated to another language, please contact (608) 422-7000 or 711 TTY (Toll Free). For civil rights questions call (608) 422-6889 or 711 TTY.

Using YoungStar is easy:

Visit youngstar.wi.gov to compare child care providers and find helpful parenting advice.

Look for the YoungStar rating window sticker or certificate when you’re interviewing providers.

Call 1-888-713-KIDS (5437) or visit supportingfamiliestogether.org to get personalized help from a local child care resource and referral specialist.

Get clear child care ratings.

- 5 Star Program
  Meets highest levels of quality standards.

- 4 Star Program
  Meets elevated levels of quality standards.

- 3 Star Program
  Meets proficient levels of quality standards.

- 2 Star Program
  Meets health and safety standards.

- 1 Star Program
  Program does not meet health and safety standards.

Who can earn a YoungStar rating? All Wisconsin child care providers who serve children from birth through their school years can participate in YoungStar, as long as they’re in good standing with state regulations. In fact, providers that receive a Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy must participate. When they do, they gain access to training opportunities, technical assistance, even micro-grants to fund books and learning materials. In that way, YoungStar doesn’t just rate the quality of Wisconsin’s child care. It improves it.

YoungStar’s parenting resources and child care ratings can help you raise happy, healthy kids and find a safe place for them to grow.

Wisconsin’s Child Care Quality Rating & Improvement System

YoungStar’s parenting resources and child care ratings can help you raise happy, healthy kids and find a safe place for them to grow.

Wisconsin’s Child Care Quality Rating & Improvement System
Before you choose, YoungStar.

The care your child gets at home and away from home can make a big difference in your little one’s life. Making healthy child care choices can set the stage for lifelong success. That includes finding a safe and secure place for your child to learn and develop social skills. It’s not easy. But YoungStar is here to help.

YoungStar is packed with helpful resources for parents, whether you’re choosing playtime activities to help your child grow or a child care provider that’s right for you.

Look for the stars.

YoungStar child care ratings give parents an easy way to weigh their options. We evaluate thousands of Wisconsin child care providers each year, in every corner of the state. Child care programs, preschools, day camps and after-school programs. Each one receives a quality rating—up to five stars for the highest quality of care—based on the points they earn across four key categories:

- **The Provider’s Education & Training**
- **The Learning Environment & Curriculum**
- **The Program’s Professional & Business Practices**
- **The Children’s Health & Well-being**

Let YoungStar do the work for you.

At youngstar.wi.gov, parents can “look for the stars” to compare child care providers in their area. You can also find in-depth information on each program. This includes their hours, location and accreditation, their evaluation history, and any violations they’ve received.

You can even get one-on-one help from a local child care resource and referral specialist. Just call 1-888-713-KIDS (5437) for a list of providers who meet your unique child care needs. Or find the Child Care Resource & Referral agency near you at supportingfamiliesontogther.org.

Find other helpful resources.

YoungStar also connects parents to tools and information that can help them raise healthy, happy kids. At youngstar.wi.gov, parents can learn what to look for when selecting a child care provider. You’ll find information on early childhood education, nutrition and healthy learning environments. You can even discover activities that encourage healthy brain development in your child.

YoungStar gives parents peace of mind. And it helps you give your kids a promising start in life.