

Changes to YoungStar for 2017/2018

October 20, 2016

The items outlined in this document are clarifications or modifications that will be made to YoungStar for 2017/ 2018 implementation. These will be effective for any program that applies to YoungStar on or after January 1, 2017 or whose anniversary date is in 2017 or 2018.

General Clarifications That Apply to All YS Programs		
Category	Indicator	Clarification
General	Rating Frequency	Programs will be required to be rated every other year with the option of an annual rating, if requested by the program. Rating criteria will change every other year as well. This addresses the concern by programs that they are evaluated too often and are required to provide too much paperwork.
General	Age Group Selections for Indicators	Beginning in 2017, in the Group evaluation criteria, classroom selection for indicators that need verification will be for the following age groups: birth – 35 months, 36 – 60 months, and school-age. In Day Camp evaluation criteria, the group selection for indicators that need verification will be for the following age groups: 3 - 4 year olds (if enrolled), 5 years –and older.
Learning Environment and Curriculum		No substantive changes.
Business and Professional Practices		No substantive changes.
Family Engagement	C.5.1-5 Family Engagement	The examples in the activities have either been clarified or modified to better meet the program type. Beginning in 2017, 3 Star programs are required to achieve 1 point. 4 and 5 Star programs are required to achieve 2 points.
Health and Wellbeing	D.1.1 Healthy nutrition and/or physical activity policies and practices	This indicator is changing from using CACFP participation and menu review to requiring programs to utilize a process of self-assessment in the areas of nutrition and/or physical activity. This indicator is required for 3, 4 and 5 Stars.
	D.1.2 Physical skill development and healthy physical activity.	This indicator has been modified to increase the amount of physical activity time required to earn the point and also to give programs more flexibility in demonstrating how they are meeting the intent of this indicator. The indicator also will address screen time per day while children are at the program.

Environment Rating Scales Clarifications for 2017/2018

The updated notes for clarification on the Environment Rating Scale Institute website are used to update the Notes for Clarification and are used for scoring throughout 2017/2018. The Clarifications are located at: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers/ers>

Wisconsin Interpretations

The following interpretation was made in response to issues raised by programs concerning the meal/snack feeding location of meals/snacks for infants and toddlers when the Environment Rating Scale Observation was performed. The ITERS-R tool has an indicators that this Wisconsin Interpretation refers to. The full documents are available at: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers/ers>.

Item 7. Meals/snacks

5.1 Children fed separately or in very small groups.

The number of children in very small groups will depend on the age and abilities of the children. Younger infants should be fed individually. For older infants, a very small group would be no more than 2 – 3 children. For toddlers and twos, a small group is not more than 6 children. In determining whether the group is appropriately small, observe to find out if the group size allows the positive interaction and support the children would receive in a good setting. However, do not confuse the effects of group size with other issues that might affect whether children's needs are being met, such as staff characteristics or number of staff present. Infants and toddlers should never be fed in a setting, such as a lunch room, where many groups of children come together to eat.

WISCONSIN INTERPRETATION

Explanation: Wisconsin Licensing Rules (251.07(5)(b)10 states that the staff shall sit at the table with children during mealtime. After providing any assistance necessary to the children, staff assigned to the group of children should sit with children during meals. Staff working with infants and young toddlers who must be fed or given a great deal of assistance with self-feeding are not required to sit with the children, while they are attending to the needs of individual children. Meals shall be served with time allowed for socialization. Credit can be given for this indicator if infants and toddlers are fed in a group setting, such as a lunch room/cafeteria or dining area and all other items of this indicator are met (adequate and appropriate supervision requiring that a staff member is attentive and within an arm's reach of any child who is eating/drinking). This allows for "Family Style Dining" in a large group setting. Programs must follow licensing rule, DCF 251.-5 (4)(d), for maintaining staff-to-child ratios in settings where the area of the center is reserved exclusively for eating at designated times. Maximum group size does not apply to areas of the center reserved exclusively for eating.