



Accreditation Policy

December 2017

YoungStar accepts the following accreditations as equivalent to a 5 Star rating:

- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- Association for Early Learning Leaders' National Accreditation Commission
- City of Madison Group and School-Age Accreditation

YoungStar accepts the following accreditations as equivalent to a 4 Star or a 5 Star rating:¹

- Council on Accreditation (COA)
- National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)
- Satellite Family Child Care Accreditation (in the greater Madison area)
- American Camp Association (ACA)

YoungStar accepts the following accreditations as equivalent to a 4 Star or a 5 Star rating:²

- National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)
- Cognia - NCA/SACS/NWAC (formerly AdvancED)
- American Montessori Society (AMS)

When a program becomes accredited or extends/renews their accreditation, it is the responsibility of the program to send their certificate of accreditation/re-accreditation to the Department of Children and Families via fax: **608-422-7156** or via email to:

youngstar@wisconsin.gov

¹ If a program is accredited by COA, NAFCC, Satellite, or ACA, the program will automatically receive a 4 Star rating. If the program meets the educational requirements of a 5 Star program in their respective YoungStar rating track, that program would be eligible for a 5 Star rating.

² If a program is accredited by NECPA, Cognia, or AMS AND the program meets the educational requirements of a 4 Star program in their respective YoungStar rating track, that program would be eligible for a 4 Star rating. If a program is accredited by NECPA, Cognia, or AMS AND the program meets the educational requirements of a 5 Star program in their respective YoungStar rating track, that program would be eligible for a 5 Star rating.

YoungStar cannot recognize a program as accredited until the certificate of accreditation/re-accreditation is received. The valid dates of the accreditation will be entered into the YoungStar system and the YoungStar rating and corresponding YoungStar Adjustments will reflect the accredited status effective the first of the month following the date the accreditation begins.

NOTE: DCF will consider accepting additional accreditations through a process of reviewing and comparing the accreditations' demonstrated competencies to those of the NAEYC standards. Policies have been established that provide the opportunity for additional accrediting bodies to submit an alignment of their quality standards to the NAEYC standards for review by DCF. If requested, DCF will allow accrediting bodies to provide clarification and additional information to support their application.

However, if the quality standards do not meet the threshold (80% overall match and all required items met), the accrediting body must wait one calendar year from the original submission to resubmit an application for reconsideration. If approved, DCF will not recognize currently accredited programs until written verification is provided stating that those programs have been reviewed under the new, approved standards.

Voluntary lapse

If a program's accreditation lapses or expires, the provider's rating will drop to a pending 2 Star rating effective the first of the month following the expiration date. The provider will be given a 90 day grace period to begin or conclude an onsite rating before the 2 Star rating is activated. If the program accepts Wisconsin Shares payments from families, the drop in star rating will negatively affect families' Wisconsin Shares subsidy amounts and the program's YoungStar Adjustment.

In anticipation of an accreditation expiring, a program may complete a YoungStar Rating Type Change Form, available through their Local YoungStar Office, and request a technical or formal rating to replace a rating based upon accreditation. Programs are eligible for Technical Assistance if they have not used their annual allotment of Technical Assistance already that year. The program will be placed into the normal queue for YoungStar services with other programs who are applying for YoungStar for the first time and renewing programs.³

³ Programs will be placed at the end of the queue but before 1 Star rated providers.

The timeframes for YoungStar services for these programs are the same as for new applicants:

Technical Assistance = 20 weeks

Formal Rating with Technical Assistance = within 8 weeks of the conclusion of Technical Assistance

Formal Rating without Technical Assistance = 8 weeks

It is in the best interest of the program to allow plenty of time for a replacement rating to be given in order to avoid the negative effect on Wisconsin Shares subsidy amounts and YoungStar Adjustments. If a program knows they will be allowing their accreditation to lapse or expire, we recommend programs submit a YoungStar Rating Type Change Form **at least six months** in advance of the accreditation expiring if possible. If the accreditation lapses before a program has been given a Technical or Formal rating, the program's rating will move to a pending 2 Star rating **on the first of the month following the expiration date. The provider will be given a 90 day grace period before the 2 Star rating is activated to support completion of the Technical or Formal rating.**

Involuntary lapse

If a program's accreditation is revoked by the accrediting body for any reason, upon notification from the program or the accrediting body that the accreditation has been revoked, the program's rating will drop to a 2 Star rating effective the first of the month following the date the accreditation was revoked. If the program is accepting Wisconsin Shares payments from families at the time of the rating change, the drop in star rating will negatively affect the families' Wisconsin Shares subsidy amounts and the program's YoungStar Adjustment.

A program may complete a YoungStar Rating Type Change Form, available through their Local YoungStar Office, and request a technical or formal rating at any time to replace a rating based upon accreditation. Programs are eligible for Technical Assistance if they have not used their annual allotment of Technical Assistance already that year. The program will be placed into the normal queue for YoungStar services with other programs who are applying for YoungStar for the first time and renewing programs.⁴ The timeframes for YoungStar services for these programs are the same as for new applicants (see timeframes above).

⁴ Providers will be placed at the end of the queue but before 1 Star rated providers.

Contact Information for the Accrediting Bodies

- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC):
<http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation>
- Association for Early Learning Leaders' National Accreditation Commission:
<http://www.earlylearningleaders.org/?page=accreditation>
- City of Madison Group and School-Age Accreditation:
<http://www.cityofmadison.com/commserv/CommunityCenters.html>
- Council on Accreditation (COA):
<http://coanet.org/standards/standards-overview/>
- National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC):
<http://www.nafcc.org/Membership>
- Satellite Family Child Care Accreditation (in the greater Madison area):
<https://www.cityofmadison.com/commserv/CommunitySatellite.html>
"Satellite" y la Asociación Nacional de Cuidado Infantil Familiar, ofrecen acreditación y apoyo en español. Póngase en contacto con el organismo de acreditación para más información.
- American Camp Association:
<https://www.acacamps.org/staff-professionals/accreditation-standards/accreditation>
- National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA):
<http://necpa.net/page/NECPAStandards>
- American Montessori Society (AMS):
<http://amshq.org/School-Resources/AMS-School-Accreditation>
- Cognia - NCA/SACS/NWAC (formerly AdvancED):
<http://www.advanc-ed.org/services/all/accreditation>