

**Wisconsin Early Childhood Care and Education Resource Listing**  
**Updated February 13, 2018**

**Birth to 3 Program**

Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Long Term Care, Bureau of Long-Term Support  
1 W. Wilson Street, P.O. Box 7851  
Madison, WI 53707-7851  
Phone: 608-266-8276, Fax: 608-261-8884  
Website: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/children/birthto3/index.htm>

Birth to 3 is Wisconsin's early intervention program for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities and their families. A federal law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), provides a framework for a comprehensive program and coordinates developmental, health and social services within a community. The Department of Health Services oversees the Birth to 3 Program in Wisconsin.

The Birth to 3 Program is for children ages birth to 36 months. Eligibility is based on a diagnosed disability or significant delay in one or more areas of development. The team will evaluate the child's ability to learn (cognitive development); move, see and hear (physical/motor development); communicate and understand other's communication (speech and language development); respond to and relate with others (social and emotional development); and eat, dress and care for daily living needs (adaptive development). A Birth to 3 service coordinator helps the family understand and participate in the evaluation process.

**Black Child Development Institute - Milwaukee**

1720 West Florist Avenue, Suite 200  
Glendale, WI 53209  
Phone: 855-MKE-BCDI (855-653-2234)  
Website: <http://bcdi-milwaukee.org/>

BCDI-Milwaukee is the local Affiliate of the National Black Child Development Institute whose mission is "To improve and advance the lives of black children and their families through education and advocacy." BCDI-Milwaukee has been serving African-American children and their families in Milwaukee for over 18 years. BCDI-Milwaukee has established a number of programs dedicated to improving child welfare, education and building family support that is vital to our children's health.

**Celebrate Children Foundation (CCF)**

110 E Main Street, Suite 810  
Madison, WI 53703  
608-266-6953  
Website: <http://www.celebrate-children.org/>

The Celebrate Children Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that helps communities throughout Wisconsin create the most effective early learning systems for children from birth to age five. Through public-private partnerships, initiatives reach children at a critical time in their development and help to promote the growth of healthy, engaged citizens. The Foundation created a permanent endowment to ensure that investments will continue to be made for young children throughout the state.

**Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Community Nutrition Programs  
P.O. Box 7841  
Madison, WI 53707  
Phone: 608-267-9129  
Website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/community-nutrition/cacfp>

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) in Wisconsin. The CACFP helps provide funding for nutritious meals and snacks served to children and adults receiving day care. In addition to day care, the CACFP also provides funding for meals served to children and youths residing in homeless shelters and for snacks provided to youths participating in eligible after school care programs. The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) promotes healthy and nutritious meals for children and adults in day care by reimbursing participating day care operators for their meal costs. A fact sheet on the CACFP program is available at:

[https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/community-nutrition/pdf/cacfp\\_fs.pdf](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/community-nutrition/pdf/cacfp_fs.pdf). A resource library is also available on the USDA Team Nutrition website at: <http://teamnnutrition.usda.gov/childcare.html>

### **Child Care Certification**

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Bureau of Early Care Regulation  
201 E. Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 8916  
Madison, WI 53708-8916  
Phone: 608-266-9314

Website: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cccertification>

A child care provider who provides care for 3 or fewer children under the age of 7 years who are unrelated to the provider may voluntarily become certified. The county/tribal human services departments are required to certify providers who serve children subsidized by the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program. In Milwaukee, the Bureau of Milwaukee Early Care Administration (MECA) is responsible for certification. The certifying agency may make certification available to all providers, whether or not public funding is involved. DCF promulgates the certification rules in chapter DCF 202. The certifying agencies throughout Wisconsin administer the certification programs, monitor providers for compliance with the certification rules, and investigate complaints. The certification agencies maintain a file on each provider that includes copies of the provider's complaint and compliance history. Information on a provider's complaint and compliance history is available by phone, mail, or in-person review or on the Regulated Child Care and YoungStar Public Search website at: <http://childcarefinder.wisconsin.gov>. The listing of certification agencies outside of Milwaukee is posted at:

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/ccregulation/cccertification/certifiers.pdf>. For information on certification in Milwaukee please see the information at: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/meca>.

### **Child Care Information Center (CCIC)**

2109 S Stoughton Road  
Madison, WI 53716  
Phone: 608-224-5388 or 1-800-362-7353, Fax: 608-224-6178  
E-mail: [ccic@dcf.wi.gov](mailto:ccic@dcf.wi.gov)

Website: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/ccic>

The Department of Children and Families supports the CCIC mail-order lending library and information clearinghouse serving anyone in Wisconsin working in the field of child care and early childhood education. CCIC offers educators statewide free written materials, help in planning individualized and group trainings, and loan of books and videos from a specialized collection in the DPI Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning. Staff will search for information as requested and mail it out in customized packets. CCIC has materials on numerous topics including: 1) child care, early childhood, and school-age care; 2) early childhood curriculum and assessment; 3) health and safety; 4) Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (books, posters, bookmarks, and training materials); 5) multi-cultural awareness; 6) inclusion of children with disabilities in child care programs; 7) brochures and other information that providers need to meet regulatory requirements; and 8) materials in Spanish and Hmong.

### **Child Care Licensing**

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Bureau of Early Care Regulation  
201 E. Washington Avenue  
Madison, WI 53708  
Phone: 608-266-9314, Fax: 608-267-7252

Website: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cclicensing>

Child care programs that provide care for 4 or more children under age 7 who are unrelated to the provider are required to be licensed. There are 5 regional and 3 district offices around the state that issue licenses, monitor programs for compliance with the licensing rules, and investigate complaints. The licensing offices maintain a file on each facility that includes copies of the center's complaint and compliance history. Information on a center's complaint and compliance history is available by phone, mail or in-person review. Packets that provide information on how to become licensed are available for \$25 by sending a cashier's check or money order (no personal checks will be accepted) made payable to the Department of Children and Families to the following address:

Department of Children and Families  
Northern Regional Office  
2187 N. Stevens St. Ste. C  
Rhineland, WI 54501

Please specify the type of center you are interested in starting (day camp, family child care, or group child care). Or, you may print and complete the *Ordering Information – Inquiry Packets* form (<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/forms/pdf/2022.pdf>) and send it with the required fee to the address listed above.

Wisconsin's Licensed Child Care Search is an automated link that contains information on the location and regulatory history of the almost 6,000 child care centers and day camps licensed by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). This information is provided to assist you in locating and learning more about licensed child care in Wisconsin: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cccertification/cccdirectories>.

For information on regulated (licensed or certified) child care and the YoungStar Public Search of regulated child care and YoungStar rated programs, see: <http://childcarefinder.wisconsin.gov/Search/BasicSearch.aspx?YoungStarProviders=true>

### **Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs)**

c/o [Supporting Families Together Association](#) (SFTA)

700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 6

Madison, WI 53711

Phone: 1 (888) 713.KIDS or (608) 443.2490 Fax: (608) 441.5399

E-mail: [info@supportingfamilies.together.org](mailto:info@supportingfamilies.together.org)

Website: <https://supportingfamilies.together.org/member-directory/>

Wisconsin's Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies work within eight regions of the state, serving all 72 counties and 11 tribes to ensure that Wisconsin's youngest children have high quality early childhood experiences. CCR&Rs have something to offer everyone: families looking for care or supports, early care and education providers in need of professional development opportunities or communities looking for information, data or solutions.

- **For Families:** educating families, as consumers of child care, so that they can make the most informed choice that is best for their family, providing a list of referred providers based on their needs and priorities, and connecting them with other community resources or supports so that they are prepared to be successful in raising their family.
- **For Early Care and Education Professionals:** delivering high quality training on a range of content areas from developmentally appropriate practices to Strengthening Families, providing customized technical consultation to potential and current early care and education providers through programs like Licensing Preparation, Active Early & YoungStar, and collecting and annually updating business information to maximize referrals to their programs.
- **For Communities:** educating stakeholders about what quality early care and education is and how to support it in communities, compiling data and producing reports regarding the local child care industry and convening stakeholders to advocate for the best possible outcomes for Wisconsin's youngest children.

### **Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program (CYSHCN)**

Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health,

Bureau of Family and Community Health

Phone: 608-266-8178, Fax: 608-267-3824

Website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/regionalcenters.htm>

The Wisconsin CYSHCN funds 5 Regional Centers which provide direct service to families and providers. The CYSHCN Program philosophy is that children are best served within their families.

- Children and families are best supported within the context of their community.
- Families will have convenient access to care coordinators.
- Collaboration is the best way to provide comprehensive services.
- Family perspectives and presence must be included in all aspects of the system.

The Wisconsin CYSHCN Program directs projects and programs, provides leadership and technical assistance to support the efforts of agencies, provides education and training opportunities for staff and service providers and coordinates a statewide system of nutrition services. The CYSHCN Program provides grants to promote care for Wisconsin children and youth with special health care needs and their families.

The Wisconsin CYSHCN Program has a new publication to assist families who may have concerns or questions about their child's development or have recently received a diagnosis of a special health care need or disability. *Finding Your Way: A Navigation Guide for Wisconsin Families Who Have Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs and Disabilities* provides brief descriptions of programs, services and systems of support and gives contact information to learn more about these and other resources. You can download a pdf version of the booklet, in English or Spanish, at: <http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/connections/> or at: <http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/cedd/products.php> under Health Products, Other Health Resources.

## **Children's Hospital of Wisconsin**

### **Community Services/Child Welfare Services**

Website: <https://www.chw.org/childrens-and-the-community/family-support-services/child-welfare-services>  
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services is the state's largest private, not-for-profit provider of child welfare services. These services include prevention services, family resource centers, counseling, treatment foster care, public child welfare, and special needs adoption.

### **Children's Service Society of Wisconsin (CSS)**

Children's Service Society of Wisconsin was established in 1889 to provide homes for orphaned and abandoned children. Their mission is the same today: to build, sustain and enhance a nurturing environment for Wisconsin children. They provide services to children and families in the core areas of prevention, out-of-home care, and public child welfare. In 2004, Children's Service Society became a member of Children's Hospital and Health System.

## **Academic Standards**

Website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/standards>

Wisconsin Academic Standards specify what students K-12 should know and be able to do in the classroom. They serve as goals for teaching and learning.

## **Community Collaboration Coaches**

Website: <http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/4k-community-approaches-collaboration-coaches.php>

Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners Community Collaboration Coaches assist communities as they partner to provide early childhood services. Coaches build and expand the regional early childhood infrastructure by facilitating the work of regional early childhood action teams and regional networks. Coaches network, share information, provide input, and promote collaboration within the state and regional early childhood infrastructure to support statewide planning and implementation of an early childhood comprehensive system in WI. Coaches work with school districts to promote services to Four-Year-Old Kindergarten and Services to Children with Disabilities using community approaches. Collaboration Coaches also facilitate professional development to assure quality outcomes through learning standards. They facilitate and assist in the delivery and implementation of the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards training to assure statewide access and increase emphasis on infants and toddlers especially related to Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards and social emotional development.

## **Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA)**

CESA Early Childhood and Related Projects Website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/cesa>

CESAs provide leadership and coordination of services for school districts, including curriculum development assistance, school district management development, coordination of vocational education, and exceptional/special education, research, human growth and development, data collection processing and dissemination, and in-service programs. CESAs work in partnership with school districts to provide leadership and to help facilitate change and continuous improvement in schools so that all children will achieve educational excellence. Twelve agencies across Wisconsin provide statewide service delivery.

## **Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) - Early Childhood Special Education Technical Assistance**

Website: <http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/disabilities-support.php>

Program Support Teachers (PST) provide support to school district early childhood personnel within their CESA region. Emphasis is in providing training and technical assistance related to the state performance plan indicators (#6 Preschool Educational Environments, #7 Child Outcomes, and #12 Transition from Part C) and initiatives. Additionally, the CESA PSTs and Coordinators act as a liaison among early childhood systems that touch the life of

a child with a disability and their family (B-3, Head Start, Child Care, 4K-5K and Early Childhood Special Education).

### **CREATE: Culturally Responsive Early Childhood Project**

Website: <http://www.air.org/resource/wisconsin-culturally-responsive-education-all-create-initiative-training-and-enhancement>

Culturally Responsive Education & Training for All: Training and Enhancement (CREATE) is a statewide system-change initiative funded by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The Culturally Responsive Early Childhood project is one component of the CREATE initiative intended to coordinate the inclusion of culturally responsive early childhood education and care practices for young Native American children with other statewide early childhood initiatives and professional development activities; support the ongoing process of an Early Childhood Tribal Coalition that serves as a system to facilitate communication between tribal and non-tribal educational agencies; and assist with the development of local interagency agreements among the tribes, school districts, and county Birth to 3 programs in order to ensure appropriate identification and provision of special education services for children ages birth to five.

### **Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)**

Website: <http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/teach/CPL/>

Pathways Brief: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/youngstar/pdf/pathwaysbrief.pdf>

Many Wisconsin child care providers haven't completed college degrees, but most have several years of relevant experience and many hours of non-credit-based training, mastering many of the skills and concepts that are learned through college courses. Credit for prior learning is an opportunity to recognize the current skill and knowledge level of Wisconsin's early childhood teachers, improve child care quality in the state, and meet expectations in the YoungStar program. Colleges that offer credit for prior learning award credit(s) to individuals who can demonstrate relevant skills and knowledge previously acquired through non-traditional schooling, non-credit-based training, work or other life experience.

### **Disability Rights Wisconsin**

Website: <http://www.disabilityrightswi.org/>

Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW) is a private non-profit organization. DRW is part of a national system of federally mandated independent disability agencies. DRW is completely independent of government and the disability service system in order to be free of any conflicts of interest which would undermine its capacity to advocate vigorously on behalf of the human and legal rights of people with disabilities. Disability Rights helps people across Wisconsin gain access to services and opportunity through its advocacy and legal expertise. It regularly challenges systems and society to create positive change and improve the lives of people with disabilities. DRW provides informational training and other learning opportunities for consumers, family members, attorneys and others who support people in the disability community. DRW trainers offer effective strategies to strengthen individual advocacy skills, improve the system's response to issues of access, broaden the understanding of disability rights and more.

### **DPI PALS Early Literacy Screener**

PALS Website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/historical/pals>

As required by Wisconsin Act 166, an early literacy screener must be administered to all kindergarten students (5K) beginning with the 2012-13 school year. This assessment provides administrators, teachers, and parents with valuable information necessary to improve the reading skills of students. Results are used to identify reading problems early on and to inform instruction. The data from the screener are not part of the new accountability system.

### **Early Childhood and Economic Development in Wisconsin**

Website: <http://www.wi-edi.org/publications.html#18>

Investing in high quality early childhood education is good business and establishes a strong foundation for success in school and in life. A growing body of research builds the case that investment in high quality early education will lead to a more educated, qualified, and talented workforce that will help Wisconsin better compete in a global economy.

### **Early Childhood Career Guide**

Website: <http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/professional-guidance-career-guide.php>

The intent of the Wisconsin Career Guide is to support individuals in identifying career paths within the field of early care and education. Links are provided to connect individuals to the organizations with which they may be interested



in seeking employment. Links are also provided to sites with information on educational and degree requirements. Resources are also identified to support individuals seeking to further their education through credit-based work.

### **Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System (EC LDS)**

Website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/early-childhood/eclds>

The Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System is a collaborative effort among the Wisconsin Departments of Children and Families, Health Services, Public Instruction, and Workforce Development to create a system that will allow Wisconsin to build, link and use data among State agencies. EC LDS will allow the State to see which programs are most effective in serving the children and families of Wisconsin. The goal of the EC LDS is to develop a high quality data plan around early childhood educational programs.

### **Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)**

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
125 S. Webster Street  
Madison, WI 53707

Website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/early-childhood>

Each of Wisconsin's 426 school districts provides special education services to children with identified disabilities, ages three to 21. Programs serving children from three to five years of age are called Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) programs. Services are provided in the least restrictive environment within a range of settings including the home, child care, Head Start, kindergarten, and early childhood special education programs. When children are served in general education, consultation and support services are available to teachers and other staff. Each school district is responsible to provide a continuum of special education and related services to children with disabilities who need special education. Children are evaluated to determine if they meet state eligibility criteria.

### **Early Childhood Systems**

Wisconsin Department of Health Services – Wisconsin Maternal & Child Health Program

Website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/mch/index.htm>

Wisconsin Healthiest Families initiative focuses on networks of services addressing family supports, child development, mental health, and safety and injury prevention. The Keeping Kids Alive objective includes Child Death Review and Fetal Infant Mortality Review with the goal to establish a sustainable, coordinated system to identify causes of all fetal, infant and child deaths, resulting in preventive strategies for community action.

### **Early Dual Language Learner Initiative (EDLLI)**

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
125 S. Webster Street  
Madison, WI 53707

Website: [http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/dual-language-learners\\_about.php](http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/dual-language-learners_about.php)

The Early Dual Language Learner Initiative (EDLLI) provides professional development, technical assistance and resources to community partners regarding culturally and linguistically responsive practices for young children, birth-6. The EDLLI Leadership Team, comprised of 25 stakeholders, and its smaller Steering Committee, were created as part of this initiative to help coordinate and advance efforts on behalf of young children who are dual language learners and their families throughout the state. In addition, the EDLLI collaborates with other state initiatives in order to include the strengths and needs of dual language learners and their families in different statewide trainings such as those provided by Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards, Preschool Options, and Wisconsin Pyramid Model for social emotional competence.

### **Family Resource Centers (FRCs)**

c/o Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA)  
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 6  
Madison, WI 53711  
Phone: 1 (888) 713.KIDS or (608) 443.2490, Fax: (608) 441.5399  
E-mail: [info@supportingfamilies.together.org](mailto:info@supportingfamilies.together.org)  
Website: <https://supportingfamilies.together.org/member-directory/>

Family Resource Centers (FRCs) provide services and support systems that emphasize and build on family strengths. Each Family Resource Center is unique, but there are commonalities across programs. FRCs primarily focus on parents or primary caregivers and their children from prenatal through early childhood, and offer a wide range of services to meet the individual needs of each family and community. Each center aims to help parents and

families develop additional positive parenting skills, and even grand-parenting skills. The specific services each center offers may be located at the center, in homes or at other locations in the community. In Wisconsin, FRCs may provide a combination of any of these core services and more:

- **Group services:** delivering parent education courses, workshops, support groups, drop-in programs, respite care, and play groups.
- **Individual services:** providing families with personal consultations and support through services such as telephone “warm-lines” for non-emergency parenting information, home visits, supervised visitation or safe exchange programs.
- **Outreach and family visiting services:** reaching out to parents and families in their homes or in other community-based locations convenient for families. This might be through collaborations with birthing hospitals to connect with new families, through community response to ensure families have support in times of need or through universal services such as car seat checks.
- **Community resource and referral and follow-up services:** offering a reliable link to public and private agencies and providing strong family advocacy within local communities. Families can receive referrals to other community programs, public benefits, and assistance with transportation.

### **Governor’s Early Care and Education Advisory Council (ECAC)**

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families  
201 E. Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 8916  
Madison, WI 53708-8916

Website: <http://dcf.wi.gov/ecac>

The Wisconsin Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) was established in December 2008 and continues work dedicated to building a comprehensive, sustainable early childhood system in Wisconsin. Its vision is that “every child will be healthy, nurtured, safe, and successful.” To move Wisconsin toward this vision, the Council established long-term outcomes of quality early learning experiences; safe and healthy children; and stable, nurturing, and economically secure families.

### **Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. (GLITC)**

Website: <http://www.glitc.org/>

The Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC) provides services to Native Americans in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota. GLITC will support member tribes in expanding self-determination efforts by providing services and assistance. Member tribes of GLITC are: Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Forest County Potawatomi Community, Ho-Chunk Nation, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Sokaogon Chippewa Community, Saint Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

### **Grow in Quality (GIQ) Materials**

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Bureau of Early Learning and Policy  
201 E. Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 8916  
Madison, WI 53708-8916

Phone: 608-266-7001, Fax: 608-266-8302

Website: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/youngstar/pdf/growingqualitysummary.pdf>

This project was conducted to identify key indicators of child care quality and to begin the process of designing technical assistance specific to quality indicators. Data were gathered on quality indicators from licensed group and licensed family child care centers participating in targeted areas of the state. The two primary purposes of the Grow in Quality project were:

- 1.) To design and test an efficient, accurate, and effective instrument that can be used reliably by trained observers to assess key quality indicators, including classroom environments and business practices in group center programs and family child care programs.
- 2.) To use the information gathered from the assessments, in collaboration with early care and education program directors, to develop meaningful plans for program improvement, to implement specified amounts and types of technical assistance, and to assess the impact of technical assistance on key quality indicators.

### **Growing Wisconsin Readers**

Website: <http://growingwisconsinreaders.org/>

Growing Wisconsin Readers is a statewide initiative rooted in public libraries that aims to support Wisconsin caregivers of young children with information about early literacy so they can prepare children for learning at school and beyond.

### **Local YoungStar Offices**

Website: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/program/localoffice>

YoungStar is Wisconsin's child care quality rating and improvement system. Local YoungStar Offices are the place to go for all things YoungStar in any Wisconsin community. Providers can learn more about YoungStar, sign up to participate, and also receive training and technical assistance to help them grow the quality of their child care program. Parents can find information about child care providers and learn what to look for when choosing a program to care for their children.

### **Office of Early Learning (OEL)**

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

125 S. Webster Street

Madison, WI 53707

Phone: 608-267-9625

E-mail: [jill.haglund@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:jill.haglund@dpi.wi.gov)

Website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/early-childhood/office-of-early-learning>

Creating an Office of Early Learning at DPI in late 2011 was a top strategy in Wisconsin's statewide early childhood system development. The OEL includes an Early Education Consultant; the Head Start State Collaboration Office; several Regional Coaches who work in the field to implement collaborative services and professional development as part of a "braided funding" initiative from three state departments (DPI, DCF, and DHS) and seven different funding streams; and an Early Childhood Data Coordinator funded by the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) to coordinate the state effort for an Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System. Additionally, the ECAC and OEL will collaborate to build the OEL as an early childhood professional development hub, designed to better align cross-sector professional development.

### **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)**

Justyn Poulos, Wisconsin PBIS Network Assistant Director

Phone: 920-855-2114 Ext. 247, [poulosj@wisconsinpbisnetwork.org](mailto:poulosj@wisconsinpbisnetwork.org)

Website: <http://www.wisconsinpbisnetwork.org>

Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) is a systemic approach to proactive, school-wide behavior based on a Response to Intervention (RtI) model. PBIS applies evidence-based programs, practices and strategies for all students to increase academic performance, improve safety, decrease problem behavior, and establish a positive school culture. Schools implementing PBIS build on existing strengths, complementing and organizing current programming and strategies. The PBIS model has been successfully implemented in thousands of schools in over 40 states, resulting in dramatic reductions in disciplinary interventions and increases in academic achievement. Data-based decision making is a hallmark of PBIS, allowing successes to be easily shared with all relevant stakeholders. The Wisconsin Pyramid Model (SEFEL) is a preschool version of PBIS.

### **Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin**

325 N Commercial Street

Neenah, WI 54956

Phone: 920-996-2210 or 1-800-CHILDREN

E-mail: [pcaw@cssw.org](mailto:pcaw@cssw.org)

Website: <http://www.preventchildabusewi.org/>

Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin is a program of the Children's Service Society of Wisconsin. Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin builds community resources, provides training and public awareness, and carries out advocacy activities in order to strengthen child abuse prevention efforts in Wisconsin.

### **Professional Development Approval System (PDAS)**

The Registry

5900 Monona Drive, #205

Madison, WI 53716

Phone: 608-222-1123



E-mail: [registry@the-registry.org](mailto:registry@the-registry.org)

Website: <https://www.the-registry.org/PDAS/Overview.aspx>

PDAS was created to allow practitioners in the early care profession to have a clearer understanding of what level of training is available, and ensures accountability for those providing the content-based training. The approval process for trainers and technical assistance providers includes verification of education, experience and competencies in the delivery areas. Resources related to the PDAS system can be found at: <http://the-registry.org/ResourceCenter.aspx>.

### **Professional Development Counseling Service**

Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA)

744 Williamson Street

Madison, WI 53703

Phone: 608-240-9880 or 1-800-783-9322 option 3

Website: <http://www.wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/youngstar/PDcounseling/>

This one-on-one service provided by WECA staff members is tailored to the needs of each person and is relevant to all individuals, from those just beginning in the ECE field to seasoned professionals. The service includes goal-setting based on an individual's interests, needs, and learning style. It also provides up-to-date information on higher education opportunities, the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Program, training and workshop opportunities in one's area, and information about resources to help individuals on their professional journey.

### **Project LAUNCH**

Local office:

Empowering Families of Milwaukee  
City of Milwaukee Health Department  
Southside Health Center  
1639 South 23rd Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
Phone: 414-286-6660  
Milwaukee Website: <http://city.milwaukee.gov/Empowering-Families-of-Milwaukee.htm>

State Office:

Department of Health Services  
P.O. Box 2659  
Madison, WI 53701-2659  
Phone: 608-266-1049  
State Website: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/>

Websites: <http://projectlaunch.promoteprevent.org/>

[http://projectlaunch.promoteprevent.org/sites/default/files/grantee\\_summary\\_wi.pdf](http://projectlaunch.promoteprevent.org/sites/default/files/grantee_summary_wi.pdf)

Wisconsin's Project LAUNCH, Well-Child Connections provides primary prevention services in eight central city zip codes in Milwaukee to promote health for infants and children from birth to age eight years and uses the lessons learned to promote state-level policy. The mission of the Milwaukee Well-Child Connections initiative is to build a comprehensive system that supports the health and wellness of all children and their families in the community. Through collaborative partnerships, Project LAUNCH will bring together programs and providers to improve community capacity and implement proven prevention strategies to promote child wellness. With the support of the state Well-Child Connections efforts, Project LAUNCH promotes the following strategies:

- developmental screening;
- mental health consultation;
- home visiting;
- integration of behavioral health into primary care;
- evidence-based family strengthening and parent skills training; and
- access to health promotion, prevention, and early intervention services that assure the health and wellness of children ages 0-8.

### **Public School Kindergarten**

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

125 S. Webster Street

Madison, WI 53707

4K Website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/early-childhood/4k>

4K Community Approach (4KCA) Website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/early-childhood/kind/4k/4kca>

5K Website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/early-childhood/kind>

All Public elementary schools include 5-year-old kindergarten and may include 4-year-old kindergarten programs. Recently, 4-year-old kindergarten programs have seen a dramatic increase. Typically, these programs have been in public school buildings. An increased number of school districts have initiated community-based approaches through partnerships that bring 4 and 5-year-old kindergarten programs into child care, preschool, or Head Start center settings. In these locations, licensed teachers may still have separate kindergarten classrooms, may team-teach in a blended program, or teach through other arrangements. As of the 2013-14 school-year, 93 percent of public school districts were offering 4K, serving 48,590 students.

### **The Registry**

2908 Marketplace Drive, Suite 103

Fitchburg, WI 53719

Phone: 608-222-1123

E-mail: [registry@the-registry.org](mailto:registry@the-registry.org)

Website: [www.the-registry.org](http://www.the-registry.org)

The Registry is a career level system which awards a certificate verifying that an individual has met all State of Wisconsin, Department of Children and Family Services entry-level training and is qualified for the position that s/he holds. Additional credit-based training is categorized by core knowledge areas as defined by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The Registry encourages professional development by defining set goals and recognizes the attainment of those goals by individuals. The Registry has developed highly specialized professional credentials and awards completion of the credential to those individuals who have met all prescribed goals. Resource and support materials related to the Registry services are available at: <http://the-registry.org/ResourceCenter.aspx>.

### **The Registry Credentials**

Website: <http://www.the-registry.org/Credentials.aspx>

The seven Credentials awarded by The Registry are: Administrator, Afterschool & Youth Development, Inclusion, Infant/Toddler, Leadership, Preschool and Program Development. Each Credential is earned by taking a sequence of 4 to 6 specific, credit-based, college courses developed by The Registry and teams of experts to meet the unique professional needs of childhood care and education practitioners. Each Credential includes a Capstone Course to implement knowledge gained, culminates in the development of a portfolio or project, and has a commission process. Those awarded the 12-credit Afterschool and Youth Development, Inclusion, Infant/Toddler, Leadership, or Program Development Credential are at Level 9 on The Registry Career Levels; those awarded the 18-credit Administrator or Preschool Credential are at Level 10. The Registry Career Levels can be found at: <http://the-registry.org/Membership/CareerLevels.aspx>

### **The Registry Program Profile - YoungStar**

Website: <http://www.the-registry.org/ProgramProfile/YoungStar.aspx>

The Registry Program Profile for YoungStar collects details pertaining to the educational qualifications of staff as well as the assignment of staff to YoungStar-relevant positions. All education and training related sections within YoungStar are verified by The Registry and taken directly from a program's Registry Program Profile. Programs that would like the education and training of their staff to be reflected in their YoungStar rating MUST complete the YoungStar section of the Registry Program Profile. Programs without Program Profiles who go through a YoungStar Technical or Formal Rating cannot earn more than 2 Stars.

The items that will be directly factored into a YoungStar rating include:

- Director of Record or Licensee
- Classroom Description – This refers to all physical classrooms. In most cases, family child care homes will only have one classroom.
- YoungStar Lead Teacher for each classroom – An individual may only be a YoungStar Lead Teacher in one classroom including classrooms in other programs. In most cases, family child care homes will list the Licensee as the YoungStar Lead Teacher.

A video explaining the process of *Creating an Organization Account* may be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6y7nVhxYqxo&feature=youtu.be>. Resource and support materials related to the Registry services are available at: <http://the-registry.org/ResourceCenter.aspx>.

## **REWARD Wisconsin Stipend Program –(Rewarding Education with Wages And Respect for Dedication)**

Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA)

Madison Office

744 Williamson Street, Suite 200

Madison, WI 53703

Phone: 608-240-9880 or 800-783-9322, Fax: 608-729-1061

Website: <http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/reward/>

Milwaukee Office

316 N Milwaukee Street, Suite 410

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Phone: 414-278-9322, Fax: 414-278-9336

The REWARD Wisconsin Stipend Program is a compensation and retention initiative for members of the early care and education workforce who are at Registry Level 9 or higher. Incremental yearly salary supplements are awarded based on one's educational attainments and longevity in the field. This program encourages increased education and retention through increased compensation.

## **State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG)**

Website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/educators/consultation/state-personnel-development-grant>

The Wisconsin Personnel Development Model (WPDM) includes the following Hub Partners: Early Childhood, Parent Leadership, Transition, Higher Education, and REACH. The Early Childhood Hub includes statewide initiatives, research-based strategies, state performance indicators, and early childhood resources to support parents and professionals in serving children with special needs. The SPDG Early Childhood Hub is housed at the Waisman Center on the UW-Madison campus.

## **Strengthening Families**

Children's Trust Fund

110 East Main Street, Suite 810

Madison, WI 53703

Phone: 1-866-640-3936

Website: <http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengtheningfamilies>

Wisconsin was one of the first seven states to pilot the Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education Initiative, an innovative, research-based strategy to prevent child maltreatment by building on the strong relationships that parents of young children typically have with their child care providers. Strengthening Families–Wisconsin continues to work in three main areas: increasing the number of child care programs in the state that build protective factors with families, enhancing relationships between child welfare and early care and education, and improving coordination across fields that work with young children and their families.

## **Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA)**

700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 6

Madison WI 53711

Phone: 1 (888) 713.KIDS or (608) 443.2490, Fax: (608) 441.5399

Website: <http://www.supportingfamiliesaltogether.org/>

E-mail: [info@supportingfamiliesaltogether.org](mailto:info@supportingfamiliesaltogether.org)

Supporting Families Together Association envisions an environment in which all children have the opportunity to reach their highest potentials and all adults understand their roles and responsibilities to children. To make this happen, SFTA supports and sustains an effective network of family support and early care and education systems through statewide membership of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, Family Resource Centers, and other organizations and individuals committed to early childhood. SFTA focuses efforts on four early childhood priorities:

- **Quality Early Care and Education:** SFTA is committed to working with our community-based organizations to advocate, educate and build Wisconsin's capacity to deliver high-quality early care and education experiences to all of Wisconsin's children. This is supported through programming like YoungStar, Training & Technical Assistance and Child Care Resource & Referral Services.
- **Strong Families:** SFTA provides concrete support to families in a strengths-based and evidence-informed manner in order to prevent child abuse and neglect. This is supported through child abuse and neglect prevention efforts and training, including Strengthening Families, Stewards of Children and SFTA's Annual Small Change Makes a Big Difference Campaign.
- **Healthy Children:** SFTA is actively engaged in a broad range of health promotion efforts that are designed to create better health outcomes for all of Wisconsin's children. This is supported through efforts to promote The Pyramid Model of Social Emotional Competence and obesity prevention initiatives like Active Early.

- **Responsive Systems:** SFTA builds systems and supports to early childhood that result in opportunities for all children to reach their highest potential. This is integrated into all programming at SFTA, including the radio program, Apoyando Familias Aprendiendo Juntos and intentional supports for Wisconsin's 11 Tribes.

### **T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Wisconsin Scholarship Program (Teacher Education And Compensation Helps)**

Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA)

744 Williamson Street, Suite 200

Madison, WI 53703

Phone: 608-240-9880 or 1-800-783-9322, option 3; Fax: 608-729-1061

Website: <http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/teach/>

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Wisconsin is a statewide scholarship program designed to help teaching staff in child care centers and after-school programs, Head Start teachers, family child care providers, and center directors and administrators advance their educational qualifications while continuing their current employment in regulated early childhood and school-age care settings. T.E.A.C.H. links education, compensation and commitment to improving the quality of early education. There is a variety of scholarship models designed to meet the diverse needs of the workforce. All models support credit-based education in Wisconsin institutions of higher education. By working in partnership with programs and scholarship recipients, T.E.A.C.H. pays the largest share of expenses related to the completion of an educational path towards a credential, degree, or coursework related to improving a YoungStar rating. T.E.A.C.H. provides counseling and administrative support as well, plus bonus upon contract completion.

### **Wisconsin's Statewide Training Calendar**

Phone: 608-222-1123

E-mail: [admin@t-net.org](mailto:admin@t-net.org)

Website: <https://www.the-registry.org/myregistry/default.aspx>

T-Net is the statewide, profession-wide, free, web-based interactive training calendar for anyone in the field of child care and education in Wisconsin. From the T-Net web site, events and trainings may be sorted according to area of the state, date, topic, sponsor, or presenter. Those looking for trainings to attend can create a personalized calendar or training "shopping cart" by selecting only those events in which they are interested. Agencies offering training are encouraged to register as sponsors and post their event information directly on the interactive T-Net web site.

### **Tom Copeland**

Website: <http://www.tomcopeland.net/>

Taking Care of Business Blog: <http://www.tomcopelandblog.com/>

Tom Copeland is a leading trainer, author, and advocate on business issues for family child care providers since 1981. His blog focuses on the business side of running a family child care program, including record keeping, taxes, contracts, legal issues, insurance, money management and retirement planning.

### **UMOS Migrant Child Care Program**

300 S. Koeller Street

Oshkosh, WI 54902-5590

Other UMOs office locations: <http://www.umos.org/corporate/locations.html>

Phone: 920-232-9611 or 1-877-413-8667, Fax: 920-232-8129

Website: [http://www.umos.org/childhood/migrant\\_child\\_care.html](http://www.umos.org/childhood/migrant_child_care.html)

UMOS services enhance the overall development of children from migrant farm-worker parents through the consolidation and allocation of administration and social service migrant daycare funds. The overall goal of the UMOs Migrant Daycare Program is to collaboratively provide quality educational and supportive services to eligible migratory children, addressing their special needs and empowering them to achieve to high standards. UMOs currently provides services to migrant children in the following Wisconsin counties: Adams, Barron, Brown, Buffalo, Columbia, Dodge, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Jackson, Jefferson, Manitowoc, Marquette, Oconto, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Polk, Portage, Richland, Sauk, Sheboygan, St. Croix, Trempealeau, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago, and Wood.

### **University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Family Living Programs**

637 Extension Building, 432 Lake Street

Madison, WI 53706

Phone: 608-263-1095

County offices: <http://counties.uwex.edu/>

Website: <http://flp.ces.uwex.edu/>

Family Living's programs are developed using university research. UW-Extension educators based in every county and on the UW-Madison campus respond to the challenges facing today's families with evidence-informed programs and practices, as well as local knowledge gained from living in the communities they serve. Extension educators help to create an environment where families have the information, skills, and assets they need to contribute to their communities and improve their quality of life in such areas as family relationships, nutrition and health, and financial security.

### **Waisman Center**

1500 Highland Avenue

Madison, WI 53705-2280

Phone: 608-263-5776, Fax: 608-263-0529

Website: <http://www.waisman.wisc.edu>

One of 14 national centers dedicated to the advancement of knowledge about human development and developmental disabilities through research and practice, the Waisman Center shares its resources in many ways: through public lectures and seminars; through consultation to physicians, educators, and other professionals; through an internet web site and resource center (<http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/cedd/early.php>) specializing in topics related to developmental disabilities; and through articles in professional journals, books, and other publications.

### **Wisconsin AfterSchool Association (WAA)**

Nora Bergeon Capps (Wisconsin Youth Company), President

2214 E Capitol Drive

Milwaukee, WI 53211

Phone: 608-276-9782

E-mail: [ncapps@wisconsinyouthcompany.org](mailto:ncapps@wisconsinyouthcompany.org)

Website: <http://www.waaweb.org/>

The National AfterSchool Association's mission is to be the leading voice of the after-school profession dedicated to the development, education, and care of children and youth during their out-of-school hours. Wisconsin AfterSchool Association is the state affiliate of the national organization. The Wisconsin AfterSchool Association hosts a statewide conference, administers the Wisconsin School-Age Credential, publishes a quarterly newsletter, and supports public policy development at state and national levels. The Wisconsin AfterSchool Association provides a professional network for all providers of out-of-school time programs serving the diverse needs of Wisconsin's children and families.

Wisconsin AfterSchool Association is a partner with the Wisconsin Afterschool Network, a public/private partnership of local and state organizations. The vision for the Wisconsin Afterschool Network is to: (1.) create a comprehensive statewide system for professional development for school-age programs in Wisconsin to foster a system of multiple pathways for training and technical assistance and to ensure high quality programs across the state are initiated to meet the needs of diverse populations, (2.) maintain and expand a sustainable structure of statewide, regional, and local partnerships, particularly school-community partnerships, focused on supporting policy development at all levels, and (3.) support the development and growth of statewide policies that will secure the resources that are needed to sustain new and existing school based/school linked afterschool programs.

### **Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health (WI-AIMH)**

133 South Butler Street, Suite 340

Madison, WI 53703-5606

Phone: 608-442-0360

E-mail: [admin@wiaimh.org](mailto:admin@wiaimh.org)

Website: <http://wiaimh.org/>



The WI-AIMH is focused on promoting healthy social and emotional development of all Wisconsin children birth through age five. Recent efforts have focused on the development of a blueprint for a comprehensive system of care that includes prevention, early intervention, and treatment. The goal of the initiative is to weave infant and early childhood principles into the fabric of all systems that touch the lives of children under age five. The developing infant and early childhood system of care in Wisconsin includes the critical components of public awareness, training, service delivery, and policy.

### **Wisconsin Birth to 3 REsource Project**

Cooperative Service Agency #5 (CESA 5)

626 E Slifer Street, Portage WI 53901

Phone: 608-742-8811

Website: <http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/disabilities-support.php#resource>

The REsource Project provides technical assistance, supportive supervision and monitoring to local county Birth to 3 Programs and their community partners. A dedicated REsource Facilitator is assigned for each DHS region to work collaboratively with the State Birth to 3 staff, Wisconsin Personnel Development Project (WPDP), and the Great Lakes Intertribal Council, Inc. (GLITC).

### **Wisconsin Career Guide**

Website: <http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/professional-guidance-career-guide.php>

The intent of the Wisconsin Career Guide is to support individuals in identifying career paths within the field of early care and education. Links are provided to connect individuals to the organizations with which they may be interested in seeking employment. Links are also provided to sites with information on educational and degree requirements. Resources are also identified to support individuals seeking to further their education through credit-based coursework.

### **Wisconsin Child Care Administrator's Association (WCCAA)**

Board President – Mary Madsen

E-mail: [mmadsen@frontiernet.net](mailto:mmadsen@frontiernet.net)

Website: <http://www.wccaa.org/>

The Wisconsin Child Care Administrators Association was founded in 1976 to help child care administrators in Wisconsin network with each other, spread the news about issues affecting them, take joint action on advocacy issues, and help administrators find out about classes and training specifically designed to meet their needs. WCCAA plays a critical role in directing the future of professionalism in child care in Wisconsin by working with our local, state, and federal government officials to educate them about our organization, our members, and our commitment to professionalism and excellence in child care.

### **Wisconsin Child Care Research Partnership (WCCRP)**

University of Wisconsin-Extension

Website: <http://www.sohe.wisc.edu/outreach/wccrp/publications.html>

The Wisconsin Child Care Research Partnership was developed as a partnership with UW-Extension, the Department of Workforce Development, and the Wisconsin CCR&R Network. The Partnership conducted statewide research on all aspects of the early care and education system in the state between 2000 and 2006, as one of 9 federally-funded research partnerships. The research findings, particularly related to the quality of care for low-income children, led to the publication of research briefs and policy options papers, as well as testimony, papers, and reports for many policy level groups. The Research Partnership provided many of the research analyses and simulations for the proposed Quality Care for Quality Kids Initiative during 2004-2005. The Research Partnership participated in a federal Data Research Capacity grant, working with partners to develop the statewide "provider file," containing data from several state agencies and groups. The Partnership formally ended in 2006, but materials are still available at the above web address.

### **Wisconsin Child Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (Lead-Safe Wisconsin)**

Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health,

Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health

1 W. Wilson Street, Room 145, P. O. Box 2659

Madison, Wisconsin 53701-2659

Phone Number: 608-266-5817

Fax Number: 608-267-0402

Website: <http://dhs.wi.gov/lead>

The Lead-Safe Wisconsin website has tools, resources and information for child care providers to help protect children from exposure to lead and prevent childhood lead poisoning. This includes information on the effects of lead on young children and the lifelong health outcomes associated with lead exposure and actions that can be taken to prevent it. The site also has important information about lead-safe work practices that must be followed in child care centers when painting and renovating in a child-occupied facility built before 1978. If you want to know if childhood lead poisoning occurs in your community, this website tells you how to obtain maps of Wisconsin communities indicating the locations of homes where children have been found to be lead-poisoned (see <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lead/data.htm>, or call the Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 608-266-5817).

### **Wisconsin Circuit Court Access (WCCA)**

Website: <http://wcca.wicourts.gov/index.xsl>

This website (WCCA) provides access to certain public records of the circuit courts of Wisconsin. The information displayed is an exact copy of the case information entered into the Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) case management system by court staff in the counties where the case files are located. The court record summaries viewed here are all public records under Wisconsin open records law. (However, it may be a violation of state law for an employer to discriminate against a job applicant because of an arrest or conviction record. Generally speaking, an employer may refuse to hire an applicant on the basis of a conviction only if the circumstances of the conviction substantially relate to the particular job. For more information, see *Wisconsin Statute 111.335* (<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/111/II/335>) and the Department of Workforce Development's *Arrest and Conviction Records under the Law* publication ([https://www.dwd.wisconsin.gov/er/civil\\_rights/discrimination/arrest\\_conviction.htm](https://www.dwd.wisconsin.gov/er/civil_rights/discrimination/arrest_conviction.htm)), or contact Child Care Licensing at the Department of Children and Families (<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cclicensing>).

### **Kids Forward (previously: Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF))**

555 W Washington Avenue, Suite 200

Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Phone: 608-284-0580, Fax: 608-284-0583

Website: <http://www.kidsforward.net>

E-mail for General Information: [bzuccarello@wccf.org](mailto:bzuccarello@wccf.org)

Kids Forward is a nonprofit, multi-issue child and family advocacy agency. Headquartered in Madison, the organization's mission is to promote the well-being of children and families in Wisconsin by advocating for effective and efficient health, education, and human service delivery systems. Kids Forward accomplishes this through publications, educational conferences, and on-going projects such as Child Safety, Early Education, Health Care, Justice for Wisconsin Youth, Vision 2020 to end child poverty by 2020, the Wisconsin Budget Project, and WisKids Count. Kids Forward's early education efforts focus on quality early learning experiences for Wisconsin's children ages birth to five. The intent is that all early education—no matter what setting—meets critical standards of quality. Kids Forward sees early education as a linchpin for children's educational success in Wisconsin.

### **Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)**

2811 Agriculture Drive

PO Box 8911

Madison, WI 53708-8911

Phone: 608-224-5012

Website: <http://datcp.wi.gov/>

This agency is responsible for food safety, animal and plant health, protecting water and soil and monitoring fair and safe business practices. This agency is responsible for inspecting and licensing more than 100,000 businesses and individuals, analyzing millions of laboratory samples, conducting hundreds of hearings and investigations, educating businesses and consumers about best practices, adopting rules that have the force of law, and promoting Wisconsin agriculture at home and abroad.

### **Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) – Quality Child Care Initiatives, Bureau of Early Learning and Policy/YoungStar (DCF – BELP)**

201 E Washington Avenue

PO Box 8916

Madison, WI 53708-8916

Quality Initiatives: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/quality>

The Department of Children and Families, Bureau of Early Learning and Policy is established to have lead planning responsibility for quality improvement efforts and delivery of resources and support to child care programming. The Bureau, in cooperation with the early childhood community, provides knowledgeable leadership, guidance, and joint planning to achieve this vision. Additionally, the Bureau directs the YoungStar Child Care Quality Rating and Improvement System, the Scholarship and Bonus Initiative administered through the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association, the Child Care Resource and Referral Contract administered through the Supporting Families Together Association, and the quality contracts for training and technical assistance delivery for quality programming and planned supply of child care and early education services.

### **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR): Education and our Natural Resources**

P.O. Box 7921

Madison, WI 53707-7921

Phone: 608-264-6280

E-mail: [janet.hutchens@wisconsin.gov](mailto:janet.hutchens@wisconsin.gov)

Website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/education/>

DNR education programs help people of all ages understand and appreciate our state's natural resources. The *Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood* (<https://www.plt.org/environmental-education-for-early-childhood>) activity guide and music/movement CD from Project Learning Tree (PLT) includes educational materials to teach kids how to think, not what to think about environmental issues. With these enjoyable, interdisciplinary activities, children 3 to 6 become nature detectives, dance with a tree, and take a simulated walk through a forest—complete with the sounds of the animals that live there! Thirty-five activities feature guided outdoor explorations; animal voices, dances, stories, and simulations; an annotated bibliography; art; assessments; and topic-related snacks. The curriculum is correlated to the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards. Designed for all educators and naturalists, the materials are only available through PLT workshops lead by certified instructors.

### **Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services – Safety and Buildings Division (DSPS-SBD)**

201 W. Washington Avenue

Madison, WI 53703

Phone: 608-266-3151

Website: <http://dsps.wi.gov/pages/Home.aspx>

DSPS-SBD makes Safety and Building Code information available in multiple formats.

### **Wisconsin Division for Early Childhood (WDEC)**

Cathy Thorsen, Ed.D., President

E-mail: [thorseca@uwec.edu](mailto:thorseca@uwec.edu)

Website: <http://www.dec-sped.org/wisconsin-dec>

WDEC is a state chapter of the Division for Early Childhood (DEC), one of seventeen divisions of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) - the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities, students with disabilities, and/or the gifted. DEC is especially for individuals who work with or on behalf of children with special needs, birth through age eight, and their families. Founded in 1973, the Division is dedicated to promoting policies and practices that support families and enhance the optimal development of children. DEC is an international community of 5,000 professionals and family members - in 50 U.S. states, 9 Canadian provinces, and 22 other countries - all working together to support the development of young children with special needs and to create a system of support for all young children and their families. WDEC established the Jenny Lange Scholarship Fund through UW-Whitewater and is a co-sponsor of the annual WI Early Childhood Education and Care Conference and the biennial JoLyn Beeman Memorial Lecture Series. Membership in WDEC provides reduced fees at these conferences; a state newsletter; and monthly publications, including the *Young Exceptional Children* journal.

### **Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA)**

Madison office: 2908 Marketplace Drive, Suite 101, Fitchburg, WI 53719

Milwaukee office: 316 N Milwaukee Street, Suite 410, Milwaukee, WI 53202

Fitchburg Phone: 608-240-9880 or 1-800-783-9322, Fitchburg Fax: 877-248-7662

Milwaukee Phone: 414-278-9322, Milwaukee Fax: 414-278-9336

Website: <http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/>

General email: [weca@wisconsinearlychildhood.org](mailto:weca@wisconsinearlychildhood.org)

WECA is a statewide, nonprofit organization serving as a professional association whose members care for and educate Wisconsin's children, ages birth to eight. WECA is an affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). WECA advocates for the child care profession, offers training and professional development, sponsors a Child Care Food Program, and administers the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Wisconsin Scholarship Program which offers scholarship opportunities to teachers, family child care providers, center directors and administrators for credit-based education. WECA also administers the REWARD Wisconsin Stipend Program, a statewide compensation initiative that awards stipends directly to family child care providers, center teachers, and program directors based on attained levels of education. As a member of the YoungStar Consortium, WECA co-administers the YoungStar program, offers trainings to address quality improvement, rates and consults with programs, administers the YoungStar Micro-Grant Program, and offers a free statewide Professional Development Counseling Service over the phone to anyone employed in early childhood education who wants to hear about the options for training and education available in Wisconsin. With a Local YoungStar Office in Milwaukee County, it provides one-on-one assistance to child care programs wishing to improve in quality.

In addition to sponsoring an annual statewide conference, WECA provides workshops and presentations on a variety of early care and education topics. The WECA web pages identify training and workshop opportunities that are offered. WECA is leading coordination efforts to bring together Wisconsin Technical College System faculty to create pathways for credit for prior learning experiences. WECA, in partnership with the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, has developed a brief related to obtaining credit for prior learning experiences, at: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/youngstar/pdf/pathwaysbrief.pdf>

### **Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners (WECCP)**

Department of Public Instruction

P.O. Box 7841

Madison, WI 53707-7841

Fax: 608-266-2529

Website: <http://www.collaboratingpartners.com>

"Working to Transform Early Childhood Care and Education," WECCP represents many public and private agencies, associations, and individuals that care about our state's young children and their families. The Collaborating Partners have come together to promote the blending of our state's current separate early childhood education and care systems. Their goal is to develop a quality, comprehensive early childhood system which shares responsibility among families, providers, the public sector, and the private sector. Links to the following activities and resources can be found: Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards, social emotional competence, screening/early identification, curriculum and assessment, serving dual language learners, serving children with disabilities, 4K community approaches, professional development, family support/parent education, homelessness and poverty, health and medical home, and economic development.

The WECCP listserv - <https://dpi.wi.gov/early-childhood/programs/listservs> - is designed to facilitate interactive, electronic communication among agencies, associations, and individuals providing services to Wisconsin's young children (birth to age 8) and their families. The focus of this listserv is on state, community and interagency efforts to improve service delivery approaches for young children and their families.

WECCP information on community approaches to serving children is available at: <http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/4k-community-approaches-about.php>.

WECCP information on curriculum and assessment is available at: <http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/curriculum-assessment-about.php>.

### **Wisconsin Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiative (WECOPI)**

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

1 West Wilson Street

Madison, WI 53703

Phone: 608-266-1865

Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Program Website: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/physical-activity/>

WECOPI Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/WECOPI>

Early Care and Education Initiatives Website: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/physical-activity/Childcare/index.htm>



The Wisconsin Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiative is a major statewide planning initiative, working toward developing and implementing a collaborative statewide multi-strategy, evidence-based initiative to enhance nutrition and physical activity among birth – five-year-olds and their families by engaging providers, families, community partners and other stakeholders. Partners involved in the initiative come from the areas of public health, public instruction, early care and education agencies, families, early care and education providers, statewide agencies and groups that support the structure of early childhood.

### **Wisconsin Early Learning Coalition**

Great Start: Early Learning Matters (ELC) Website: <http://whsaonline.org/advocacy/community-relations/wisconsin-early-learning-coalition/>

Wisconsin Council on Children & Families (WCCF) Website: <http://www.wccf.org>

Comprised of 14 prominent early childhood organizations, the Early Learning Coalition advocates that all Wisconsin's children to get a "Great Start." Together we promote public policies and public investments that make high-quality early care and education a top priority in our state. Wisconsin Council on Children and Families is the organizational home of the Coalition.

### **WI FACETS**

600 W. Virginia Street, Suite 501

Milwaukee, WI 53204

Phone: 877-374-0511 or 414-374-4645

Website: <http://www.wifacets.org/>

Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support, Inc. (WI FACETS) is a nonprofit organization serving Wisconsin children and adults with disabilities, their families and those who support them. Services provided include: public awareness, parent education, specialized workshops, parent support, parent leadership, and promotion of partnership activities between parents and professionals.

### **Wisconsin Family Child Care Association (WFCCA)**

Website: <http://www.wisconsinfamilychildcare.org>

The Wisconsin Family Child Care Association, WFCCA, is a statewide organization of family child care providers and their supporters, formed to provide support, involvement, and communication with others in the profession. The goal of the Association is to help maintain the high quality of care that promotes the physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development of children by:

- Promoting the awareness of family child care as a viable choice in child care.
- Promoting awareness of the professionalism of family child care.
- Providing an opportunity for input into laws concerning children.
- Providing a statewide information/assistance network.
- Providing an opportunity for involvement, support, and communication with others.

### **Wisconsin First Step**

1900 South Avenue, NCA2-04

La Crosse, WI 54601

Hotline: 1-800-642-7837

Business Line: 608-775-6339

E-mail: [wispubhealth@mch-hotlines.org](mailto:wispubhealth@mch-hotlines.org)

Website: <http://www.mch-hotlines.org/mch-hotlines/?id=4575&sid=33>

Wisconsin First Step is a statewide Information and Referral (I&R) hotline that serves families and providers working with children and youth who have special needs. The line is operational 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.

### **Wisconsin Head Start Association (WHSA)**

122 East Olin Avenue, Suite 110

Madison, WI 53713

Phone: 608-442-6879 Fax: 608-442-7672

Website: <http://www.whsaonline.org/>

The Wisconsin Head Start Association (WHSA) is a private not-for-profit membership organization representing more than 16,000 children, upwards of 3,000 staff and 54 Head Start programs in Wisconsin. WHSA is an association of leaders dedicated to assuring the availability of comprehensive, top quality services for children and families in our



state. They accomplish this through advocacy, the delivery of professional development services, and the creation of unique resources for people and organizations committed to families.

### **Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA)**

Madison Office

201 West Washington Avenue, Suite 700

Madison, WI 53703 Phone: 608-266-7884 or 1-800-334-6873, Fax: 608-267-1099

Milwaukee Office

140 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 200

Milwaukee, WI 53204 Phone: 414-227-4039 or 1-800-628-4833, Fax: 414-227-4704

Website: <http://www.wheda.com>

WHEDA operates two programs that benefit child care providers who are looking for additional funding:

- The Linked Deposit Loan (LIDL) Subsidy, which assists women and/or minority-owned and -controlled businesses in the start-up or expansion of their business by reducing the interest rate on their bank loans
- Small Business Guarantee, which can assist in the expansion or acquisition of a small business, or assist in the start-up of a child care business which may be owned by an individual, a partnership, a corporation, a non-profit organization, or a cooperative. For additional information about eligibility requirements, eligible uses of loan proceeds, terms and conditions, and the application process and fees, contact WHEDA.

### **Wisconsin Immunization Program**

Phone: 608-267-9959

Website: <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/>

Local Health Department and Tribal Agency Listing: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/localhealth/>

The Wisconsin Division of Public Health Immunization Program, in partnership and collaboration with local partners, strives to eliminate the transmission of vaccine-preventable disease through effective immunization programs and outbreak control measures. Utilizing best-practice strategies and evidence-based programming, the steps to achieve this mission include: improving the effectiveness of immunization delivery systems; increasing immunization access for all; identifying and eliminating racial, ethnic and other disparities; and protecting the community through high immunization rates. This web page contains vaccine information as well as many links to other pages and sites, including the National Immunization Program (NIP) and the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC).

### **Wisconsin Immunization Registry**

Wisconsin Division of Public Health

Bureau of Communicable Disease

Immunization Section

1 W Wilson Street, Rm 318

PO Box 2659

Madison, WI 53701-2659

Phone: 608-261-9691

Fax: 608-267-9493

E-mail: [dhswirhelp@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dhswirhelp@wisconsin.gov)

Website: <https://www.dhfwir.org/PR/portallInfoManager.do>

The Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) is a computerized Internet database application that was developed to record and track immunization dates of Wisconsin's children and adults, providing assistance for keeping everyone on track for their recommended immunizations. Statewide release occurred in May 2000. All demographic information for births occurring in Wisconsin was back-loaded to January 1995 and continues to be downloaded on a weekly basis.

### **Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (WMELS)**

Website: <http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/wmels-about.php>

The WMELS are derived from research in all the domains of the child's early learning and development and apply to all settings in which children receive care and education. They were developed by the WMELS Steering Committee, composed of representatives from the state Departments of Public Instruction, Health Services, and Children and Families; the Head Start State Collaboration Office; and Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners. The WMELS are a listing of developmental expectations for children birth to first grade supported by practice-based evidence and scientific research. The WMELS provide a shared framework for understanding and communicating

expectations for young children's development. The WMELS are a guide for parents, early care and education professionals, and policymakers, all of whom share responsibility for the well-being of young children. A copy of the WMELS can be downloaded at the link listed above. The Frequently Asked Questions section lists commonly asked questions regarding the development and intended use of the standards.

Training for Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards is taking place throughout Wisconsin for educators, child care providers and families who want to continue to improve the quality of early education and care for children birth to first grade.

### **Wisconsin Pyramid Model for Social and Emotional Competence**

Website: <http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/wi-pyramid-model-about.php>

The Wisconsin Pyramid Model for Social Emotional Competence in Young Children is a developmentally appropriate, evidence-based framework designed to promote social and emotional competence and address challenging behaviors in young children ages birth to 5. An implementation grant from the Center for Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) at Vanderbilt University allowed Wisconsin to establish demonstration sites and adapt the curriculum for child care staff into an 8-part training series. Pyramid model materials are available at: <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/index.html>

### **Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program and Fraud Detection Investigation Unit**

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Bureau of Early Learning and Policy

201 E. Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 8916

Madison, WI 53708-8916

Phone: 608-261-6317, Option 2, Fax: 608-266-8302

Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/wishares>

The Department of Children and Families, Bureau of Early Learning and Policy (BELP) is established to have lead planning responsibilities for state government child care programs. Its vision is to provide access to affordable, high quality child care and early education experiences, to enhance children's development and to support their families in work and parenting roles. The Bureau of Early Learning and Policy in cooperation with the early childhood community, provides knowledgeable leadership, guidance, and joint planning to achieve this vision. The Bureau provides effective management, development, and coordination of public child care assistance to families. The Bureau facilitates increased quality programming and planned supply of child care and early education services.

### **Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (WSPEI)**

Phone: 877-844-4925

Website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/families>

WSPEI is a service for parents, educators, and others interested in parent-educator partnerships for children with disabilities. WSPEI has the goal to help parents and school districts find or create the resources that will help them build positive working relationships that lead to shared decision-making and children's learning. WSPEI supports increased sharing of information among parents, schools, projects, organizations and agencies through networking meetings, conferences, person-to-person contact and media.

### **Wisconsin State Reading Association (WSRA)**

Website: <http://www.wsra.org/>

The Wisconsin State Reading Association (WSRA) has several committees that do work related to early literacy learning, including Children's Literature, Early Childhood Literacy, Early Literacy Intervention, and Families and Literacy.

The Families and Literacy committee maintains a monthly newsletter, "Families and Literacy," that can be downloaded at: <http://www.wsra.org/research-resources>. The Families and Literacy committee also produced a video, "The Power of Reading to Your Child." It can be ordered at:

[http://www.wsra.org/assets/media/updated\\_power\\_of\\_reading\\_to\\_your\\_child\\_dvd\\_order.pdf](http://www.wsra.org/assets/media/updated_power_of_reading_to_your_child_dvd_order.pdf)

### **Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS): Early Childhood Education (ECE) – Two-Year Associate Degree Program**

ECE Career Program Website: <http://www.wistechcolleges.org/explore-careers/program/early-childhood-education>

Working with and understanding preschool children is the goal of the Child Care and Development program. Students learn to plan and guide children's activities such as dramatic play, art, music, language arts, project

activities, and field trips. Emphasis is also placed on children's physical and intellectual growth, getting along with others, and positive behavior techniques. Child care settings are varied, with many new programs developing constantly. Day care needs have far surpassed the number of graduates available and trends are indicating a steady growth in this field. Jobs are many and varied, and may include preschool teachers and directors, special education teacher aides, assistant teachers and nannies.

### **Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC)**

Milwaukee – Business Office  
2745 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
Phone: 414-263-5450, Fax: 414-263-5456

Madison – South Central Region Office  
2300 S. Park Street  
Madison, WI 53713  
Phone: 608-257-5450, Fax: 608-257-5454

Southeast (Kenosha and Racine) Offices: <http://www.wwbic.com/about-vision/statewide-offices-womens-business-centers/>

Website: <http://www.wwbic.com/>

The WWBIC is an economic development corporation providing quality business education and access to capital for entrepreneurs. WWBIC consults, educates and mentors owners of small and micro businesses throughout Wisconsin. WWBIC can provide a free business assessment, and individuals can gain a thorough understanding of financing options available for business start-up or expansion. WWBIC can also help individuals start out by developing a business plan outline. WWBIC provides training, marketing tips and a business resource directory.

The WWBIC webpage also includes tools and resources on the following: business plan outline, marketing tips, business resource directory, and child care business planning software.

### **YoungStar – Wisconsin's Child Care Quality Rating and Improvement System**

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Bureau of Early Learning and Policy  
201 E. Washington Avenue  
Madison, WI 53708

Website: <http://www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar>

Wisconsin's Child Care Quality Rating and Improvement System. YoungStar sets a five-star rating system for child care providers based on the quality components of educational qualifications, learning environment and curriculum, business practices and health and well-being of children. Through this rating system the state will address several key issues in Wisconsin's child care system. It will:

1. Improve the overall quality of child care
2. Create a clear, understandable tool for parents to choose quality child care
3. Create incentives for providers to improve services, particularly for low-income children, and
4. Establish a connection between child care quality and the rate of Wisconsin Shares payments, and help prevent fraud in the Wisconsin Shares system.

Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA) manages YoungStar across the state.

Local administration of YoungStar occurs through twelve (10) Local YoungStar Offices. Contact information is available at: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/program/localoffice>.

The YoungStar Quality Indicator Point Detail documents for Family Child Care, Group Child Care, and School-Age Care are available at: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers/point-detail>.

The Star ratings of child care programs may be seen on the Regulated Child Care and YoungStar Public Search at: <http://childcarefinder.wisconsin.gov>.

### **YoungStar Regional Training Calendar**

c/o Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA)  
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 6

Madison, WI 53711

Phone: 608-443-2499 or 888-713-KIDS, Fax: 608-441-5399

E-mail: [info@supportingfamilies.together.org](mailto:info@supportingfamilies.together.org)

Website: <https://www.supportingfamilies.together.org/wp-content/uploads/Annual-Training-Calendar.pdf>

YoungStar maintains a list of low-cost or no-cost opportunities for professional development, networking, resource gathering, and fun – all contributing to YoungStar success. The trainings are listed by the county, as well as by the six YoungStar regions, making them easy to find.

## **National Resources**

### **Afterschool Alliance**

1616 H Street NW

Washington, DC 20006

Phone: 866-KIDS-TODAY

Website: <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org>

The Afterschool Alliance is an organization dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of afterschool programs and advocating for more afterschool investments. The Alliance works with the Presidential Administration, the U.S. Congress, governors, mayors, and advocates across the country. It has more than 25,000 afterschool program partners. Alliance efforts include *Lights On Afterschool*, a nationwide celebration of afterschool programs that attracts 1 million Americans to 7,500 events across the country; an ongoing media campaign; and many other lobbying, training, and publishing efforts.

### **Allergy and Asthma Network – Mothers of Asthmatics**

8229 Boone Boulevard, Suite 260

Vienna, VA 22182

Phone: 800-878-4403, Fax: 703-288-5271

Website: <http://www.aanma.org/>

Founded in 1985, AANMA is a national nonprofit network of families whose desire is to overcome, not cope with, allergies and asthma. AANMA believes that the shortest route to that goal is knowledge, and that's why AANMA produces accurate, timely, practical, and livable alternatives to suffering.

### **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)**

141 Northwest Point Boulevard

Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098

Phone: 847-434-4000 or 1-800-433-9016

Fax: 847-434-8000

Website: <http://www.aap.org/>

Committed to the attainment of optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants, children and adolescents, this website provides information on health-related topics from the newsroom on research, professional education, quality improvement and public policy.

### **American Camp Association (ACA)**

5000 State Road 67 North

Martinsville, IN 46151-7902

Phone: 765-342-8456 or 1-800-428-2267

Fax: 765-342-2065

Website: <http://www.ACAcamps.org>

The American Camp Association (ACA) is a community of camp professionals dedicated to ensuring the high quality of camp programs; a greater public understanding of and support for the value of the camp experience; and an increase in the number of children, youth, and adults of all social, cultural, and economic groups who participate in the camp experience. Established in 1910, ACA operates as a private, nonprofit, educational organization with members in all 50 states and several foreign countries. Its members represent a diverse constituency of camp owners and directors and many individuals associated with the operation of camps for children and adults. The ACA local offices are a key component of program delivery, including for the accreditation program.

The ACA community of camps promotes active participation, caring relationships, and a focus on the emotional, social, spiritual, and physical growth of the individual. Camps vary in their purpose and desired outcomes, but each encourages risk-taking, valuing the resources of the natural world, maintaining healthy lifestyles, and learning through a variety of fun and life-changing experiences. As a leading authority in youth development, ACA works to preserve, promote, and improve the camp experience.

### **American Federation of Teachers: Center for the Child Care Workforce (CCW)**

Website: <http://www.aft.org/node/10415>

E-mail: [ccw@aft.org](mailto:ccw@aft.org)

High-quality early childhood education has been on the AFT's agenda since the 1970s as a strategy for improving educational outcomes, particularly for disadvantaged children. Today, the AFT represents thousands of early



childhood workers in a growing number of facilities across the country. The union's early childhood program, which includes the AFT's Center for the Childcare Workforce, promotes education and training, better wages and working conditions, and a stronger voice for the early care and education workforce.

### **American Lung Association**

1301 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 800

Washington, DC 20004

Phone: 1-800-LUNGUSA (5864872)

Website: <http://www.lungusa.org/>

The mission of the American Lung Association® is to prevent lung disease and promote lung health. The American Lung Association® has many programs and strategies for fighting lung disease. Among these are Open Airways For Schools, the American Lung Association's elementary-school education program for children with asthma. Open Airways teaches children with asthma to understand and manage their illness so they can lead more normal lives. The American Lung Association® offers a variety of smoking control and prevention programs targeted to specific groups: some aimed at adults, others intended for school use, and still others designed to build bridges between the home and school and involve community leaders along with parents and educators.

### **Association for Early Learning Leaders (formerly known as the National Association of Child Care Professionals, or NAC)**

8000 Centre Park Drive, Suite 170

Austin, TX 78754

Phone: 800-537-1118

E-mail: [info@earlylearningleaders.org](mailto:info@earlylearningleaders.org)

Website: <http://www.earlylearningleaders.org/>

The Association for Early Learning Leaders, formerly known as the National Association of Child Care Professionals, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to excellence by promoting leadership development and enhancing program quality through the National Accreditation Commission's standards. Early Learning Leader's goal is to strengthen the knowledge, skills, and abilities of early care directors, owners, emerging leaders and other early learning professionals to ensure quality child care programs for young children. Accreditation by Early Learning Leaders is equivalent to a 5 Star rating in YoungStar, Wisconsin's child care quality rating and improvement system.

### **BUILD Initiative**

Send postal mail to BUILD's fiscal sponsor, Third Sector New England (TSNE), at:

BUILD Initiative/TSNE

89 South Street, Suite 700

Boston, MA 02111

Website: <http://www.buildinitiative.org>

E-mail: [info@buildinitiative.org](mailto:info@buildinitiative.org)

Related Websites:

Office of Child Care: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ>

National Center on Child Care Quality Assurance: <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/centers/national-center-early-childhood-quality-assurance>

QRIS National Learning Network: <http://www.qrisnetwork.org/>

Early Learning Challenge Collaborative:

<http://www.buildinitiative.org/OurWork/StateandLocal/EarlyLearningChallenge.aspx>

The BUILD Initiative helps states create comprehensive early childhood systems and coordinated, effective policies that address children's health, mental health and nutrition, early care and education, family support, and early intervention. BUILD's vision is at the center of an emerging and vibrant state-based policy movement in the early childhood development field. BUILD works with those who set policies, provide services and advocate for the youngest children to make sure that they are safe, healthy, eager to learn and ready to succeed in school.

### **Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University**

50 Church Street, 4th Floor

Cambridge, MA 02138

Phone: 617-496-0578

E-mail: [developingchild@harvard.edu](mailto:developingchild@harvard.edu)

Website: <http://developingchild.harvard.edu/>

The mission of the Center on the Developing Child is to leverage science to enhance child well-being through innovations in policy and practice. Specifically, the Center strives to translate advances in neuroscience, molecular biology, genomics, and the behavioral and social sciences into creative new strategies for action. Their website includes reports and videos that very effectively show what society can do to help expand opportunities early in life for all children to achieve their full potential and engage in responsible and productive citizenship.

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

1600 Clifton Road

Atlanta, GA 30333

Phone: 800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)

Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/>

Information for Early Childhood Educators about the *Learn the Signs. Act Early.* campaign:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/ccp/>

CDC is collaborating with other organizations to create the expertise, information, and tools that people and communities need to protect their health – through health promotion; prevention of disease, injury and disability; and preparedness for new health threats. The CDC Core Values are: Accountability, Respect and Integrity.

### **Center on Law and Social Policy (CLASP)**

1200 18<sup>th</sup> Street NW Suite 200 Washington, D.C. 20036

Phone: 202-906-8000

Website: <http://www.clasp.org>

High-quality child care and early education can build a strong foundation for young children's healthy development and ensure that children have all they need to thrive. This knowledge drives CLASP's work to promote policies that support both child development and the needs of low-income working parents. CLASP supports policies that expand resources for child care and early education initiatives at the federal, state, and local levels. CLASP also studies the relationships among child care subsidy systems, Head Start and Early Head Start, state pre-kindergarten programs, and other birth to five early education efforts, to advance ideas that ensure these systems address the full range of needs of children and families.

### **Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL)**

Mary Louise Hemmeter, Principal Investigator

Vanderbilt University

Department of Special Education

Box 328 GPC

Vanderbilt University

Nashville, TN 37203

Phone: 615-322-8150 or 1-866-433-1966

E-mail: [ml.hemmeter@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:ml.hemmeter@vanderbilt.edu)

Website: <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/>

The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning is a national center focused on strengthening the capacity of child care and Head Start programs to improve the social and emotional outcomes of young children. The center develops and disseminates evidence-based, user-friendly information to help early childhood educators meet the needs of the growing number of children with challenging behaviors and mental health challenges in child care and Head Start programs.

The Center has also developed What Works Briefs that provide summaries of effective practices for supporting children's social-emotional development and preventing challenging behaviors. Each Brief describes practical strategies, provides references to more information, and includes a one-page handout that highlights the major points of the Brief.

### **Child Care Aware**

1515 N Courthouse Rd, 11<sup>th</sup> Fl

Arlington, VA 22201

Phone: 800.424.2246

<http://childcareaware.org/>

Child Care Aware® of America (formerly NACCRRA) is a national voice for child care. Child Care Aware works with more than 600 state and local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies to ensure that families in every local

community have access to quality, affordable child care. Child Care Aware leads projects that increase the quality and availability of child care, offer comprehensive training to child care professionals, undertake groundbreaking research, and advocate for child care policies that positively impact the lives of children and families. The mission of this organization is to promote national policies and partnerships to advance the development and learning of all children and to provide vision, leadership, and support to community Child Care Resource and Referral. The Child Care Aware provider site (<http://usa.childcareaware.org/members-providers/>) includes useful tools and resources to support individuals beginning careers as child care providers.

### **Child Care Law Center**

445 Church Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Phone: 1-415-558-8005  
E-mail: [info@childcarelaw.org](mailto:info@childcarelaw.org)  
Website: <http://childcarelaw.org/>

The Child Care Law Center (CCLC) is a national nonprofit legal services organization that uses legal tools to make high quality, affordable child care available to every child, every family, and every community. This is the only organization in the country devoted exclusively to the complex legal issues that affect child care. The work of CCLC encompasses public benefits, civil rights, housing, economic development, regulation and licensing, and land use.

### **Child Care Technical Assistance Network (CCTAN)**

Website: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/ta>

The Office of Child Care (OCC) administers the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program, a multibillion-dollar Federal and State partnership to support access to high-quality early care and education and school-age care for working families. OCC helps States, Territories, and Tribes administer their CCDF programs through program support, policy guidance, technical assistance (TA), and research. The Child Care Technical Assistance Network (CCTAN) web page describes and provides links to the following partners. Many of the partners' websites have information useful to providers and advocates, too.

- Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning
- Child Care & Early Education Research Connections
- Child Care Communications Management Center
- Child Care State Systems Specialist Network
- Healthy Child Care America
- National Center on Child Care Data and Technology
- National Center on Child Care Professional Development Systems and Workforce Initiatives
- National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement
- National Center on Child Care Subsidy Innovation and Accountability
- National Center on Tribal Child Care Implementation and Innovation

### **Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)**

815 West Van Buren Street, Suite 210  
Chicago, IL 60607-3567  
Phone: 312-226-3770  
E-mail: [info@casel.org](mailto:info@casel.org)  
Website: <http://casel.org>

CASEL is a not-for-profit organization that works to advance the science and evidence-based practice of social and emotional learning. It was founded in 1994 by Daniel Goleman, the author of the book *Emotional Intelligence*, educator/philanthropist Eileen Rockefeller Growald, and a group of distinguished researchers and practitioners. The *2013 CASEL Guide: Effective Social and Emotional Learning Programs – Preschool and Elementary School Edition* may be downloaded from the CASEL website: <http://www.casel.org/research/>

### **Council on Accreditation (COA)**

45 Broadway, 29th Floor, NY, NY 10006  
Phone: 212-797-3000  
Website: <http://coanet.org/>

The Council on Accreditation (COA) partners with human service organizations worldwide to improve service delivery outcomes by developing, applying, and promoting accreditation standards. Their accreditation is accepted

for licensed group and school-age programs as equivalent to 4 Stars in YoungStar, Wisconsin's child care quality rating and improvement system. If the education and training levels of staff members in the COA-accredited organizations meet 5 Star minimums, the program is awarded a 5 Star rating.

### **First Five Years Fund (FFYF)**

Chicago Office: 33 W. Monroe Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60603

Phone: 312-453-1835

Website: [www.ffyf.org](http://www.ffyf.org)

The First Five Years Fund is committed to moving knowledge about the importance of early childhood education into wide-scale practice through comprehensive, quality early childhood education systems, programs, and supports. Through knowledge, data, advocacy, and collaboration, FFYF helps elected officials, business leaders, and philanthropists see early childhood education as a solution for dramatically improving education, health, social, and economic outcomes—in the short- and long-term. We help them understand how to craft policies, leverage existing funding, add new revenue, develop programs, and incentivize the most efficient and effective ways to invest in the development of America's greatest resource—its children.

### **Healthy Children**

American Academy of Pediatrics

141 Northwest Point Boulevard

Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098

Phone: 847-434-4000

E-mail: [info@healthychildren.org](mailto:info@healthychildren.org)

Website: <http://www.healthychildren.org>

The American Academy of Pediatrics' consumer website has excellent information on health and safety for parents and child care providers.

### **Healthy Child Care America (HCCA)**

American Academy of Pediatrics

Department of Child Health and Wellness

Division of Developmental Pediatrics and Preventive Services

Early Education and Child Care Initiatives

141 Northwest Point Blvd

Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Phone: 1-888-227-5409

E-mail: [childcare@aap.org](mailto:childcare@aap.org)

Website: <http://www.healthychildcare.org>

The American Academy of Pediatrics' Healthy Child Care America program is a collaborative effort of health professionals and child care providers working to improve the early education, health, and safety of children in out-of-home child care. This includes increasing access to preventive health services, safe physical environments, and a medical home for all children. The program also strives to increase pediatrician participation and effectiveness in providing high-quality care and promoting early education and children's health and well-being.

### **Let's Move! Child Care**

Website: <http://www.healthykidshealthyfuture.org/welcome.html>

E-mail: [letsmovechildcare@nemours.org](mailto:letsmovechildcare@nemours.org)

This website is full of tips for child care providers who want to help children learn habits that will keep them healthy for life. It is structured around five goals related to physical activity, screen time, food, beverages, and infant feeding.

### **National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs (NAC)**

*(See Association for Early Learning Leaders.)*

### **National AfterSchool Association (NAA)**

2961A Hunter Mill Road, #626

Oakton, VA 22124

Phone: 703-610-9002, Fax 703-610-9003

E-mail: [info@naaweb.org](mailto:info@naaweb.org)

Website: <http://www.naaweb.org>

NAA is a membership association for professionals who work with children and youth in diverse school and community-based settings during out-of-school hours. NAA provides publications, radio programs, advocacy, a national convention, an informational website, and other services that reflect the best-practice thinking of the afterschool profession. It offers access to affordable training, technical assistance, and professional development for afterschool program staff. The Wisconsin AfterSchool Association is a state affiliate of NAA.

**National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)**

1743 W. Alexander Street

Salt Lake City, UT 84119

Phone: 801-88-NAFCC (801-886-2322) or 1-800-359-3817, Fax: 801-886-2325

Website: <http://www.nafcc.org>

E-mail: [nafcc@nafcc.org](mailto:nafcc@nafcc.org)

The mission of NAFCC is to support the profession of family child care and to encourage high-quality care for children. NAFCC has promoted high-quality family child care through accreditation, leadership training, technical assistance, public education, and policy initiatives. NAFCC holds an annual national conference and publishes a quarterly newsletter.

**National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**

1313 L Street NW, Suite 500

Washington, DC 20005

Phone: 202-232-8777 or 1-800-424-2460 or 1-866-NAEYC-4U

Website: <http://www.naeyc.org>

The nation's largest professional association for early childhood educators, NAEYC offers its members the opportunity to sign up for the free monthly e-mail newsletter and offers an Action Center for advocates. Members of Wisconsin Early Childhood Association are members of NAEYC. NAEYC has worked to raise the quality of programs for all children from birth through age eight. A major part of NAEYC's efforts to improve early childhood education is through different systems of accreditation for programs that are committed to meeting national standards of quality.

**National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)**

The NECPA Commission, Inc.

PO Box 2948

Merrifield, VA 22116

Phone: 855-706-3272

Website: <http://www.necpa.net/>

NECPA standards are based on publications from highly esteemed organizations, such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the National Health and Safety Performance Standards developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Public Health Association. These standards assess quality in the areas of adult and child interaction, staff utilization, health and safety, physical environment, administration, and parent and community relationships. A strong emphasis has been placed on current developments in health and safety, brain research, and risk management. The NECPA Commission is dedicated to promoting high-quality early childhood programs across the country and internationally.

**National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER)**

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

73 Easton Avenue

New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1879

Phone: 848-932-4350, Fax: 732-932-4360

Website: <http://www.nieer.org>

The National Institute for Early Education Research supports early childhood education initiatives by providing objective, nonpartisan information based on research. NIEER is one component of a larger early education initiative designed, funded and managed by The Pew Charitable Trusts. *Preschool Matters* is a publication of NIEER.



### **National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)**

PO Box 3006

Rockville, MD 20847

Website: <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/sids/>

Phone: 1-800-370-2943

E-mail: [NICHDInformationResourceCenter@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NICHDInformationResourceCenter@mail.nih.gov)

The *Safe to Sleep Public Education Campaign*, formerly known as the Back to Sleep campaign, focuses on actions that can be taken to help babies sleep safely and to reduce their risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and other sleep-related causes of infant death. This campaign has been successful in promoting infant back sleeping to parents, family members, child care providers, health professionals, and all other caregivers of infants.

### **National Institute on Out-of-School Time (NIOST)**

Wellesley Centers for Women

Wellesley College

106 Central Street

Wellesley, MA 02481

Phone: 781-283-2547, Fax 781-283-3657

E-mail: [nioست@wellesley.edu](mailto:nioست@wellesley.edu)

Website: <http://www.nioست.org>

NIOST provides evaluations, consultation, training, and publications to meet the needs of out-of-school time programs. It draws on both research and practice in its work to ensure that all children, youth, and families have access to high quality programs, activities, and opportunities during non-school hours. Issues of its national, peer-reviewed journal *Afterschool Matters* may be downloaded from its website.

### **National Network for Child Care (NNCC)**

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

2150 Beardshear Hall

Ames, IA 50010-2046

Phone: 1-800-262-3804

Website: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/child-care-education-families>

This website, sponsored by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, is an excellent source of practical information about children and child care.

### **National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS)**

University of Northern Iowa

103 Human Performance Center

Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0618

Phone: 1-800-554-PLAY

E-mail: [playground-safety@uni.edu](mailto:playground-safety@uni.edu)

Website: <http://www.playgroundsafety.org>

NPPS provides playground safety tips, standards, and training.

### **National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education (NRC)**

13120 E 19<sup>th</sup> Ave, Mail Stop F541

PO Box 6511

Aurora, CO 80045

Phone: 1-800-598-KIDS (5437)

E-mail: [info@nrckids.org](mailto:info@nrckids.org)

Website: <http://nrckids.org/>

The NRC's primary mission is to promote health and safety in out-of-home child care settings throughout the nation. The standard resource for information concerning this subject is the *Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, Third Edition* (<http://nrckids.org/CFOC3/>), published in 2011. The entire text of this publication is available on this website.

### **National SUID/SIDS Resource Center**

Georgetown University  
2115 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 601  
Washington, DC 20007  
Phone: 202-687-7466 or 1-866-866-7437  
E-mail: [info@sidscenter.org](mailto:info@sidscenter.org)  
Website: <https://www.ncemch.org/suid-sids/index.php>

The National Sudden and Unexpected Infant/Child Death Resource Center serves as a central source of information on sudden infant death and on promoting healthy outcomes for infants from the prenatal period through the first year of life and beyond. The Resource Center serves as a central information resource to collect and disseminate state-of-the-art knowledge on research, programs, and services to diverse audiences.

### **National Women's Law Center (NWLC)**

11 Dupont Circle, NW, #800  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Phone: 202-588-5180  
E-mail: [info@nwlc.org](mailto:info@nwlc.org)  
Website: <http://www.nwlc.org>

Since 1972, the National Women's Law Center has expanded the possibilities for women and girls in this country. The Center uses the law in all its forms: getting new laws on the books and enforced; litigating ground-breaking cases in state and federal courts all the way to the Supreme Court; and educating the public about ways to make the law and public policies work for women and their families. An experienced staff of more than 50 takes on the issues that cut to the core of women's and girls' lives in education, employment, family economic security, and health — with special attention given to the needs of low-income women and their families.

### **Partnership for After School Education (PASE)**

120 Broadway, Suite 230  
New York, NY 10271  
Phone: 212-571-2664, Fax 212-571-2676  
Website: <http://www.passetter.org>

PASE is a child-focused organization that promotes and supports quality afterschool programs, particularly those serving young people from underserved communities. It provides training and technical assistance, consults with organizations to build their capacity and sustainability, convenes afterschool leaders and others from allied professions, acts as a laboratory for innovative afterschool programs and practices, recognizes outstanding afterschool staff, and advocates for the afterschool field. From <https://passetter.org/initiatives/youth-outcomes/the-afterschool-youth-outcomes-inventory-second-edition>, you can link to the *Afterschool Youth Outcomes Inventory* (a comprehensive free tool for afterschool practitioners to use in assessing and articulating their programs' impact on youth) and to the Afterschool Outcomes Resource Center.

### **Pre-K Now**

The Pew Charitable Trusts  
901 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
Phone: 202-552-2000, Fax: 202-552-2299  
E-mail: [pcs-feedback@pewtrusts.org](mailto:pcs-feedback@pewtrusts.org)  
Website: <http://www.preknow.org>

In 2011, The Pew Charitable Trusts completed this 10-year campaign to advance high-quality, voluntary pre-kindergarten for all three- and four-year-olds. Through its successes, Pre-K Now changed the national conversation about pre-k education, and in its final report, challenged the nation's policy makers to transform public education by moving away from the current K-12 system to pre-K-12.

### **Tribes Learning Community**

CenterSource Systems, LLC  
60 Commerce Lane, Suite D  
Cloverdale, CA 95425  
Phone: 707-838-1061, Fax: 707-894-2355  
Website: <http://tribes.com/>

E-mail: [tribes@tribes.com](mailto:tribes@tribes.com)

The Tribes TLC® process is an effective way to improve behavior and learning by creating a positive school, classroom, or afterschool environment. Tribes TLC® offers collaborative skills, community agreements, meaningful participation, strategies for integrating curriculum, and professional development for teachers and administrators. In 2012, Wisconsin's 129 Certified Tribes Trainers offered 24-hour basic training and a shortened 12-hour training for afterschool programs.

### **US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)**

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

4330 E West Highway

Bethesda, MD 20814

Toll-Free Consumer Hotline: 1-800-638-2772

Website: <http://www.cpsc.gov>

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. The CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard or can injure children. The CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals - contributed significantly to the 30 percent decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

### **US Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program (USDA CACFP)**

Food & Nutrition Service (FNS) National Office:

3101 Park Center Drive

Alexandria, VA 22302

Phone: 703-305-2062

Food & Nutrition Service (FNS) Midwest Regional Office

77 W Jackson Blvd, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor

Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Phone: 312-353-6664

Website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/child-and-adult-care-food-program>

Through the Child and Adult Care Food Program, children in child care settings have access to healthy meals and snacks. Day care centers and home day care providers can participate in the programs. Fact sheets on many FNS programs are available at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/program-fact-sheets>

### **US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Healthy Child Care**

USEPA Headquarters

Ariel Rios Building

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Mail Code 1107T

Washington, DC 20460

EPA Healthy Child Care Contact: Margot Brown ([Brown.Margot@epa.gov](mailto:Brown.Margot@epa.gov), 202-566-0874)

EPA Region 5 Children's Health Coordinators: Maryann Suero ([Suero.Maryann@epa.gov](mailto:Suero.Maryann@epa.gov), 312-886-9077) and

Edward Master ([Master.Edward@epa.gov](mailto:Master.Edward@epa.gov), 312-353-5830)

Website: <http://www.epa.gov/childcare>

The EPA provides information on how to identify potentially harmful environmental contaminants in child care settings and steps you can take to reduce or eliminate those hazards.

### **Zero to Three**

ZERO TO THREE: National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families

1255 23<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, Suite 350

Washington, DC 20037

Phone: 202-638-1144

Website: <http://www.zerotothree.org>

Zero to Three's mission is to support the healthy development and well-being of infants, toddlers and their families. Zero to Three is a nonprofit, multidisciplinary organization that informs, educates and supports adults who influence the lives of infants and toddlers. A Zero to Three Fact Sheet can be found at:

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/series/state-baby-facts>.