



For many years, Theresa chose a technical rating, stating she did not want anyone in her home and telling her what she was doing wrong. Last year she decided to give a formal rating a try and earned 4 Stars. One year later, a 5 Star rating was achieved. Theresa encourages others to “just give it a try!”

5 Stars Feels Great!

Building on Quality

Theresa Lyons was introduced to the child care field at a career day in high school. She began her work with children in a group program, and then, in October 2011, she opened her family child care business. She thought this would be a great way to stay in the field she loved and also be home with her own children. When YoungStar was first introduced to Theresa, she stated that her experience wasn't the best. But, when she began working with her Technical Consultant, Chris Lace, during her second year of YoungStar services, she learned so much through the consulting that Chris offered. They worked together on re-writing her policy manual, discussed curriculum and environment, and went through the Family Child Care Environment Scales. Each year, Chris asked Theresa if she would be interested in a formal rating, and each year, Theresa gave a firm no. That is until this past rating year. Theresa decided it was time to get recognition for the great things that were happening in her program. She agreed to a formal rating and earned a 4 Star rating.

Encouraging Others to Participate

Theresa recently spoke to another provider that was not participating in YoungStar. This provider had heard that there was a lot of paperwork and that Technical Consultants would just show up whenever they wished. Theresa spoke with this provider and shared her experiences with YoungStar, stating that the Technical Consultants help you every step of the way with the paperwork and always schedule meetings during times that will work best for the provider. She also shared that the Micro-grant that providers receive each year helps to improve and update materials for the children.

5 Stars Achieved

Theresa currently has an associate degree. She has expressed interest in working towards a bachelor's degree and continuing with her professional development. She believes that her flexibility and personal relationships with her families, along with the high quality of care given to the children are important factors in making her program unique. Recently, Theresa underwent another formal rating and just received the great news, she earned a 5 Star rating this year!

Wisconsin's Stars are Shining

YoungStar informs parents, recognizes quality providers and brings resources and support to programs committed to improving quality. But what it's really all about is helping Wisconsin children shine bright.