

Changes to YoungStar for 2015

The items outlined in this document are clarifications or modifications that were made to YoungStar for 2015 implementation. These will be effective for any program that applies to YoungStar on or after January 1, 2015 or whose anniversary date is in 2015.

General Clarifications That Apply to All YS Programs		
Category	Indicator	Clarification
General	Staffing of Child Care Programs	A person can only be associated in The Registry's Program Profile with one program at a time. This means a person who has responsibilities for more than one program must choose one Program Profile with which to be affiliated. Every classroom that is open at least 25% of the time the program accepts children must be listed on the Program Profile.
Learning Environment and Curriculum	B.2.2 Curriculum aligned with WMELS or SACF	This indicator has been reorganized to reflect the order of the "Teaching Cycle" and what a rater is looking for in regard to curriculum alignment and developmentally appropriate practices.
	B.3.1 Child Portfolios	<p>This indicator has been clarified and the words learning objective have been added to help clarify what a child's goal is based on. The second bullet clarifies portfolio documentation when a Program/Provider operates a school-age program only during the summer months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one goal/learning objective per month must be documented in a child's portfolio. It could be the same goal/learning objective for multiple months. The Provider is responsible for ensuring that the goals/learning objectives for each child correspond to the documentation that is being included in the portfolio. The goals/learning objectives must be in each child's portfolio. Each entry must be dated. • When a Program/Provider operates a school-age program only during the summer months, a portfolio for any child enrolled for more than 6 days should be created and must have at least one piece of evidence or observation in it. The item could include an interest survey, an artifact, anecdotal note or observation, or an activity summary survey.
	B.3.2 Program uses intentional planning to improve child outcomes.	<p>An explanation of the Program/Provider's responsibility to demonstrate connections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the provider's responsibility to demonstrate the connections between the child observations, lesson plans, goals/learning objectives, and the individualized child assessment tool that is used by the program. The Program/Provider could refer to the Teaching Cycle as explained in the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards materials/training. <p>Verification that the program uses intentional planning to improve child outcomes will also be completed by the Rater verifying the frequency of child assessment to be at least twice per year or the recommended frequency of the tool.</p>

	B.3.4 Individual Child Outcomes Tracked.	Language regarding what the timeline is for demonstrating tracking child outcomes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs must be able to demonstrate at least six months of tracking child outcomes to earn the points for this indicator. • Summer School-age only: Programs must be able to demonstrate at least six weeks of tracking child outcomes to earn the points for this indicator. The program may show previous year's information combined with current year. • Examples of child outcomes to track: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children demonstrate improved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships) ○ Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/communication and early literacy) ○ Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.
Family Involvement	C.5.5 Family outreach, education and social opportunities two times per year	Clarification of this indicator regarding programming, the intent is for an actual scheduled event with invitation of attendance to all families. In this case, an Open Door Policy does not meet this criterion
Health and Wellbeing	D.1.1 Child and Adult Care Food Program participation/nutritious meals and snack	USDA alignment refers to components and not portion size for the purposes of a YoungStar rating.
	D.1.2 60 minutes of physical activity	Clarified the 60 minutes of physical activity point. The 60 minutes of a program's daily routine must include 10 minutes of teacher-led music and movement each day for each age group except school-age children separate from outside time. Previously the music and movement was listed separately.
	D.1.4 Strengthening Families/Child Protective Services Abuse and Neglect Prevention Training	For ratings occurring on or after January 1, 2016, YoungStar will no longer accept Department-approved Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (CANP) training to meet the requirements of indicator D.1.4 because this training is already required for licensing. Programs that earned a point for D.1.4 due to having 100% of Lead Teachers/Director with CANP training will no longer earn that point when they are rated in the 2016 rating year unless the program has staff with qualifications to meet the other training options in indicator D.1.4
General	Appendix E	Added Appendix E to further explain the scoring for Child Outcomes in Summer-Only School-age Classrooms

Environment Rating Scales Clarifications for 2015

The updated notes for clarification on the ERSI website are used to update the Notes for Clarification and are used for scoring throughout 2015. There has been only one minor update to ECERS in the past year, and no updates at all to any of the other scales. The Clarifications are located at:

<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/ers.htm>

SACERS-Updated: In 2016, the SACERS Updated will be used for Formal Ratings. It is not a revision but rather an updated version of the original. It has minor changes and is corrected to score irregularities in the original SACERS, with several new Indicators that have been added.

Family Child Care Programs

Category	Indicator	2015 YoungStar Indicator
Education and Training	A.1 and A.2	The Family Child Care Credential was included at the 4 Star level.

Wisconsin Interpretations

2015 Wisconsin Interpretations are located at: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/ers.htm>

For ITERS-R and FCCERS-R: Although a change to the diapering procedures has been made to the Notes for Clarification on the ERSI website, that change will not be implemented for scoring a YoungStar formal rating.

For FCCERS-R: A new Wisconsin Interpretation has been added.

Item 12. Safety Practices

5.2 Home has passed official fire inspection, and emergency evacuation procedures are practiced monthly with children. See Explanation.

Wisconsin Interpretation

EXPLANATION: There are two parts to this indicator and this will be scored. However, the provider may present documentation that an inspection was requested and refused because the Fire Marshall/Chief does not provide this service for the community in which the program is located. The Fire Marshall/Chief must provide a signed statement or an email from the Fire Marshall/Chief that indicates the above. The portion of the indicator will be scored as met.

Group Child Care, School-Age Care and Day Camp Programs

Category	Indicator	2015 YoungStar Indicator
Provider Education and Training	A.1 – 2 Educational Qualifications	The Family Child Care Credential was included at the 4 Star level in Group Child Care. For School-Age programs (Track 3) and Day Camp (Track 4), changes were made to the educational qualifications of the Site Supervisor/ Coordinator/ Administrator at the 3 Star level and above. The word and has been replaced with the word or for credits in supervision or personnel management or financial management course work.
General	Centralized Administration	Applies to Group, School-Age, and Day Camp programs. Centralized administration is for programs with multiple sites that are administered outside of the site/center.
Business and Professional Practices	C.4.2 Access to pension/retirement with contribution	If the policy is online and a computer is available for easy access during the working day by staff, it would be considered conveniently available.
	C.4.4 All-staff meetings and planning time	Defines planning time and gives possible scenarios for programs to meet the point.

Accreditation for Group and School Age

The American Montessori Society accreditation has been accepted for YoungStar. If a program is accredited by AMS AND the program meets the educational requirements of a 4 Star program in their respective YoungStar rating track, that program would be eligible for a 4 Star rating. If a program is accredited by AMS AND the program meets the educational requirements of a 5 Star program in their respective YoungStar rating track that program would be eligible for a 5 Star rating. The Accreditation policy is located at:

<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/policy.htm>

Ratio Policy: Programs should review the Ratio Policy. It is important that programs follow the policy for group sizes. A Lead Teacher/Group Leader/Counselor must be listed in The Registry Program Profile. The policy can be found at: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/pdf/ratio_policy.pdf