

Changes to YoungStar for 2021/2022

The items outlined in this document are clarifications or modifications that will be made to YoungStar for 2021/ 2022 ratings. These will be effective for any program that applies to YoungStar on or after January 1, 2021 or whose required rating anniversary date is in 2021 or 2022.

General Changes	
Layout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rating requirements and support information are both included in the Evaluation Criteria document. Required indicators are listed first, followed by seven additional high-quality practices. The rating verification sections after each indicator have been moved to a separate document.
Track 4 Definition	Track 4 is used to rate regulated programs that operate 14 consecutive weeks or fewer per year. Licensed Day Camps that have children enrolled for more than 14 weeks are rated using Track 3 (School-Age).
Change to Block System	<p>Points for indicators have been removed. The Evaluation Criteria includes only required items for star levels. This allows programs to focus on the areas most linked to child outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For a technical rating, programs are only evaluated on the current 3 Star rating requirements. For a formal rating, programs are only evaluated on the current 4 and 5 Star rating requirements, plus a selection of YoungStar quality practices that were previously optional.
High-Quality Practices for Formal Ratings	<p>Additional high-quality practices for a formal rating include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum alignment with WMELS or SACF Individual child portfolios Intentional planning to improve individual child outcomes Developmental screening Tracking child outcomes Approved Social-Emotional or Inclusion training by staff Approved Strengthening Families training by staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For a 4 Star rating, a program must demonstrate at least 4 of these additional high-quality practices. For a 5 Star rating, a program must demonstrate at least 5 of these additional high-quality practices.
Environment and Curriculum: Developmentally Appropriate Environment	
Play Areas & Interest Centers	<p>The number and type of required organized areas for play has been modified based on age and program type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classrooms with all children under 24 months must have at least one play area- a space that is large enough for children to play with accessible, organized materials. Classrooms with any child between 24 months and 36 months must have at least three interest centers- spaces created for a specific type of play with accessible, organized materials. Classrooms/Groups with all children over age 3 must have at least five interest centers- spaces created for a specific type of play with accessible, organized materials. Family child care programs must have at least two play areas- spaces that are large enough for children to play with accessible, organized materials.
Art Materials	<p>Art materials will only be required for classrooms/programs with all children aged 24 months or older. The current requirement applies to classrooms/programs with all children aged 12 months or older.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art materials must be developmentally appropriate and at least six different types of art materials must be available in the environment (when all children are aged 24 months or older).
Nature/ Science Materials	<p>Nature/Science materials will now be required for classrooms/programs with all children aged 24 months or older.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature/Science materials must be developmentally appropriate and at least five different examples of nature/science materials must be available in the environment (when all children are aged 24 months or older).

Environment and Curriculum: Environment Rating Scales	
Updated Rating Scales ITERS ECERS FCCERS	<p>Currently, programs are evaluated with the “revised” versions of the Infant/Toddler, Early Childhood, and Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (ERS-R) tools. Beginning in 2021, the following updated tools will be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale, third edition (ITERS-3), • Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale, third edition (ECERS-3), • Family Childcare Environment Rating Scale, third edition (FCCERS-3). <p>Changes in the third editions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ITERS-3 now applies to children up to 3 years old. The ECERS-3 now applies to children between 3 and 5 years old. • Increased emphasis on interactions. Less emphasis on handwashing and sanitation procedures. • Decreased emphasis on counting materials, more on how teachers/providers use materials w/children. • Removes teacher/provider interviews. Considers only what is observed during the observation. • Increased emphasis on engaging language, literacy, and math experiences with many new items and indicators.
ERS Average Score Revision (For 2021/2022 Evaluation Criteria rating cycle only)	<p>FAMILY CHILD CARE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 4 Stars, a family child care program must achieve an average Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale – 3 (FCCERS-3) score of 3.25. • For 5 Stars, a family child care program must achieve an average Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale – 3 (FCCERS-3) score of 4.25. <p>GROUP CHILD CARE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 4 Stars, a group child care program must achieve an average Environment Rating Scale (ERS) score of 3.50 as observed and verified with the following tools: Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale -3 (ITERS-3), Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-3 (ECERS-3), and/or School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale – Updated (SACERS-U). • For 5 Stars, a group child care program must achieve an average Environment Rating Scale (ERS) score of 4.50 as observed and verified with the following tools: Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale -3 (ITERS-3), Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-3 (ECERS-3), and/or School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale – Updated (SACERS-U).
SACERS Tool	<p>There are no changes to the School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale, or to the Track 3 score requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 4 Stars, a program must achieve an average Environment Rating Scale (ERS) score of 4.0 as observed and verified with the School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS-U). • For 5 Stars, a program must achieve an average Environment Rating Scale (ERS) score of 5.0 as observed and verified with the School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS-U).
Business and Professional Practices	
Tracking Meals/ Snacks	For YoungStar purposes, consultants will no longer verify that a program is tracking meals and snacks for Record-Keeping purposes.
Accurate Taxes	For YoungStar purposes, consultants will no longer verify that a program is completing timely and accurate tax documents.
Contracts with Families	Consultants will now verify that parent payment agreements are on file between the program and families who participate in the Wisconsin Shares subsidy program.
Health and Well-Being	
Progress on Goals	After a program initially earns this indicator, they must demonstrate progress on at least one healthy nutrition and/or physical activity policy and/or practice goal from their previous QIP in order to continue to earn this indicator.
Allergy Policy	For YoungStar purposes, consultants will no longer verify that a program has an allergy policy.