



## YoungStar Frequently Asked Questions: Accreditation

February 5, 2016

**Note: Almost all questions have been revised since June 10, 2013; questions that have been substantially revised or added since the last update are highlighted.**

YoungStar is a 5 Star quality rating and improvement system that supports child care and school-age care providers in the areas of education, learning environment & curriculum, business & professional practices and the health & well-being of children. Through this rating system the state addresses several key issues in Wisconsin's child care system. YoungStar:

- Focuses on improving outcomes for children by improving the overall quality of care
- Creates multiple pathways to professional development opportunities and better quality for child care and school-age programs
- Creates a clear, understandable tool for parents to choose quality child care
- Creates incentives and provides support for programs to improve services, particularly for low-income children
- Improves accountability for the Wisconsin Shares system

### Questions: Accreditation

**[ACC-1. How do accredited programs earn YoungStar ratings?](#)**

[ACC-2. How do we know that the accreditations mentioned in the previous question are equivalent to a 4 or 5 Star rating?](#)

[ACC-3. Do accredited programs need to supply a person who is trained in the Wisconsin Pyramid Model, PBIS, Tribes® TLC, or Guiding Children's Behavior in School-Age Programs?](#)

### Answers: Accreditation

**[ACC-1. How do accredited programs earn YoungStar ratings?](#)**

Accredited programs are awarded ratings of 4 or 5 Stars, based on the type of accreditation the program holds (and on staff educational qualifications, in some cases). The accreditation process replaces the YoungStar rating process.

YoungStar accepts the following accreditations as equivalent to a **5 Star** rating:<sup>1</sup>

- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- Association for Early Learning Leaders (formerly the National Association of Child Care Professionals)
- City of Madison Group and School-Age Accreditation

YoungStar accepts the following accreditations as equivalent to a **4 Star or a 5 Star** rating, depending on the educational qualifications of staff:<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> These accreditations require programs to meet the educational requirements of **5 Star** programs.

- American Camp Association (ACA)
- Council on Accreditation (COA)
- National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)
- National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)
- Satellite Family Child Care Accreditation (in the City of Madison)
- AdvancED
- American Montessori Society (AMS)

When a program becomes accredited or extends/renews its accreditation, it is the responsibility of the program to send its certificate of accreditation/re-accreditation to DCF at [youngstar@wisconsin.gov](mailto:youngstar@wisconsin.gov), to ensure YoungStar ratings are correct.

A copy of the YoungStar Accreditation Policy may be found at:

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/youngstar/pdf/policies/accreditation-policy.pdf>

### Accredited School-Age Programs

If a school-age program is housed inside a group-licensed location that is accredited by the Association for Early Learning Leaders (ELL), the school-age program is recognized as accredited because only one YoungStar rating can be awarded per Location Number. School-age programs at these locations are considered part of the accredited status of the larger program.

### **ACC-2. How do we know that the accreditations mentioned in the previous question are equivalent to a 4 or 5 Star rating?**

YoungStar staff communicate regularly with staff in these accrediting bodies and are satisfied that their accreditation criteria and monitoring practices are rigorous. Currently accepted accreditation bodies require programs to submit annual self-studies and have established unannounced on-site visits. Accreditation is accepted as an alternate pathway to 4 or 5 Stars based on the intensive practices that are necessary to earn accreditation.

### **ACC-3. Do accredited programs need to supply a person who is trained in the Wisconsin Pyramid Model, PBIS, Tribes® TLC, or Guiding Children's Behavior in School-Age Programs?**

No. Ongoing social emotional training is certainly *recommended* for accredited programs, but it is *not* required, and it will *not* affect an accredited program's rating.

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<sup>2</sup> If a program is accredited by COA, NAFCC or Satellite 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. If a program is accredited by NECPA, AdvancED, or AMS AND the program meets the educational requirements of a 4 Star program in their respective YoungStar rating track, that program would be eligible for a 4 Star rating. If a program is accredited by NECPA, AdvancED, or AMS AND the program meets the educational requirements of a 5 Star program in their respective YoungStar rating track, that program would be eligible for a 5 Star rating.