



Provider News: A Resource for Wisconsin Shares & YoungStar Providers

September 2019

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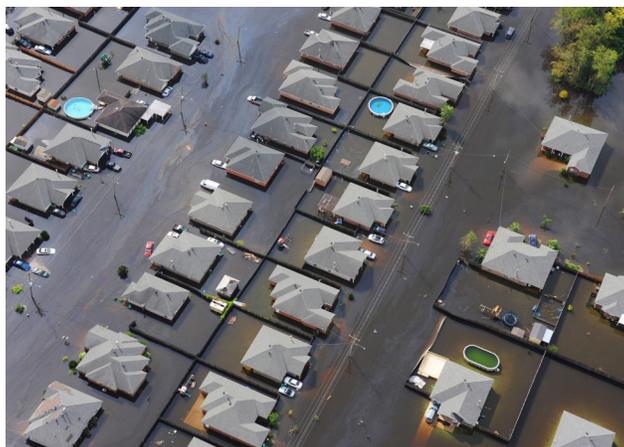
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Emergency Preparedness



Is your child care program prepared to respond in an emergency?

The process of developing and maintaining emergency plans, and regularly reviewing and practicing those plans, makes it more likely your child care program and staff will be equipped to protect children if a disaster strikes. The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act requires states to establish health and safety standards that protect children in the event of an emergency.



DCF is on Twitter! Follow @WisDCF for helpful child care information.

The Bureau of Early Care Regulation has created an [Emergency Preparedness and Response resource page](https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/ccregulation/emergencyprep) to assist child care providers in the development of emergency preparedness and response plans that comply with state health and safety standards. Be sure to visit this helpful resource page at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/ccregulation/emergencyprep>.

Training Corner

Sharpen your professional skills with new training opportunities!

SFTA Training Opportunities

<https://supportingfamilies.together.org/early-care-education-professionals/sharpen-your-professional-skills/>

WECA Training Opportunities

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

The Registry Training Opportunities

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

Collection of Provider Overpayments

After receiving notice of an overpayment, a child care provider may take the following steps to repay an overpayment:

- The provider will have the opportunity to submit payment in full within the first 30 days after receiving an overpayment notice.
- If an overpayment is not paid in full within the first 30 days, the provider will receive an invoice from the Department that contains a Repayment Agreement.
- After signing and returning the Repayment Agreement to the Department, the provider may be allowed to make regular monthly payments for a limited amount of time.



Continued on page 2



Overpayments continued from page 1

If the overpayment is not paid within 30 days after receiving an invoice, and the provider does not set up a Repayment Agreement, the child care provider will receive a Dunning Notice at 30, 60, and 90 days of outstanding payment. If the overpayment is not paid in full, the child care provider will be subject to tax intercept.

Once the provider enters into a Repayment Agreement, repayment summary notices will inform the provider of the current remaining balance of their overpayment.

Wisconsin Shares Updates

Wisconsin Shares Subsidy and Caring for a Child with Special Needs



Parents who receive a Wisconsin Shares Child Care subsidy are required to know how much their provider charges for care so they can pay the provider the difference between their subsidy amount and the actual cost of care. For this reason, child care providers should **always** inform a parent about their child care rates, including any additional fees for services (e.g., field trips, diapers, etc.). Does that mean caring for a child with a special need could be considered an additional fee? The answer to that question lies within the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination based on an individual's disability. Within Title III of ADA there are specific requirements relating to nondiscrimination by public accommodations, which includes child care programs. It is section 36.301 (https://www.ada.gov/reg2010/titleIII_2010/titleIII_2010_regulations.htm#a301) that states that public accommodations **may not** impose a charge to provide nondiscriminatory treatment as required by the Act.



Supporting the Needs of the Child

There continues to be some confusion in regard to the Wisconsin Shares Special Needs Inclusion Request. This additional financial support is for those families who qualify for Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy **and** have a child with a disability. This is **not** a way for a child care program to charge a family a higher rate, but it is instead a higher subsidy amount given to the family to be used to assist the provider in supporting the needs of the child. The higher subsidy amount can be used to purchase specialized equipment, assist with adapting toys or materials, help pay for a program assistant, etc. The increased subsidy amount is determined on a case-by-case basis and families do not automatically qualify. The De-

partment of Children and Families (DCF) will inform parents if their request has been approved or denied. Due to confidentiality laws, DCF and local agency staff are unable to inform child care providers whether a higher subsidy amount has been approved.

DCF Online Resources

If you would like to find out more about ADA and Inclusion, please visit the following DCF web pages:

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/eci>

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/eci/understanding-ada>

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/eci/trainings>

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/eci/resource-library>



YoungStar Updates



New Features in the Child Care Finder

In June 2019, DCF introduced some new features on the Child Care Finder (CCF) website to showcase unique services that child care programs offer, and to help families find the care they need. Each feature has a unique icon or symbol along with a message describing the services that are provided. For now, five service features have been added to CCF.

1) Programs that offer Infant Care (ages served includes 0-12 months) display a baby carriage icon.

2) Programs that offer Night Time Child Care (where Night Time Child Care includes operation hours that are past 9 p.m. or start before 5 a.m.) display a crescent moon icon.

Provider Details			
Jan January January Care - Location 001 444 5Th St Monthville WI 44444 Milwaukee County	Provider # Location # Facility # Regulation Type Applicant/Licensee	5800039215 001 N/A Regular Certified Jan January	Months Open Children under Age of 7 Group Size Hours
Contact Information Janet January (121) 212-2121	Ages Served 6 Week(s) - 13 Year(s)	Jan - Dec 3 6 Mon-Fri, Sun 12:00AM - 11:59PM	

YoungStar Details																		
Current Rating ***	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Points Earned</th> <th>Points Possible</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Education and Training</td> <td>14</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Learning Environment and Curriculum</td> <td>9</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business and Professional Practices</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Health and Wellness</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category	Points Earned	Points Possible	Education and Training	14	14	Learning Environment and Curriculum	9	14	Business and Professional Practices	7	7	Health and Wellness	2	5
Category	Points Earned	Points Possible																
Education and Training	14	14																
Learning Environment and Curriculum	9	14																
Business and Professional Practices	7	7																
Health and Wellness	2	5																
32 Points Earned, Out of 40 Points Maximum Rating Details																		
<div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px;"> This program provides Infant Child Care </div> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px;"> This program offers Night Time Child Care </div> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px;"> This program offers Weekend Child Care </div>																		

3) Programs that offer Weekend Care (any operation hours on Saturday and/or Sunday) display a plus sign in box icon.

4) Programs that offer 4K programming display a graduation cap icon.

Provider Details			
Country Star Child Care 215 E Washington Ave Madison WI 53703-2855 Dane County	Provider # Location # Facility # Regulation Type Applicant/Licensee	7800039467 001 1122439 Licensed Group Hannah Montana	Months Open Day Capacity Night Capacity Hours
Contact Information Hannah Montana [REDACTED]	Ages Served 0 Week(s) - 16 Year(s)	Jan - Dec 30 0 Mon, Fri 5:00AM - 8:00AM 3:00PM - 6:00PM Tue-Thu 5:00AM - 6:00PM Sat-Sun Closed	

YoungStar Details																		
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Education and Training	14	15																
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Business and Professional Practices	6	7																
Health and Wellness	3	5																
35 Points Earned, Out of 40 Points Maximum Rating Details																		
<div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px;"> This program provides Infant Child Care </div> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px;"> This program offers 4K programming </div> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px;"> This program offers Head Start programming </div>																		

5) Programs that offer Head Start programming display a hand-shake icon.

Make sure *your* child care program details are up-to-date so families know what services you offer.

Programs and families can check out the new features at:
<https://childcarefinder.wisconsin.gov/>
 under each program's YoungStar Details section.

In the near future, new feature types will be added and families will be able to search all programs by feature to help meet their needs.



YoungStar Updates

YoungStar is Going Lean! Simplified Ratings Coming in 2021



Since 2011, YoungStar-rated providers have gone through a 40-point evaluation process during each completed rating. A variety of choices are included in the 40-point scale so that programs can work on many areas of quality, and the total number of points earned is part of each program's overall rating. However, after research was completed by UW–Madison, it became clear that the points that are **required** for each star level – versus the total number of points earned – are the most influential in determining a program's star rating.

With all this in mind, YoungStar is going lean with a new, simplified block structure. With implementation in 2021, this rating structure:

- Removes points and just awards star levels;
- Includes the current requirements for a 3 Star rating as the **only** areas evaluated for a 3 Star rating;
- Includes the current requirements for a 4 and 5 Star rating, plus a few YoungStar quality practices that are currently optional, as the **only** areas evaluated for a 4 or 5 Star rating; and

- Allows programs to focus on the areas most linked to child outcomes.

More information will be coming as we work towards this updated and simplified rating process!



YoungStar Appeals Process Updated



YoungStar's rating process ensures that no one individual is responsible for assigning a score – each rating has pieces verified by different people (i.e. Technical Consultant, The Registry, Environment Rating Scale Observer). YoungStar requires that consultants and raters meet with each provider before any on-site rating is approved and posted to the public website in order to answer questions and address concerns about the rating outcome.

After this meeting, providers that can demonstrate that a consultant or rater inaccurately assessed a quality indicator(s) may request to have an outside agency review the situation.

Providers should follow the newly updated appeals policy (effective July 1, 2019) at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/youngstar/pdf/policies/ys-appeal.pdf>.



STEAM in Early Childhood



Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (**STEAM**) are big words that are making even bigger impacts on children's brain development when they begin engaging in STEAM learning at an early age. There is an exciting and powerful link between STEAM and early childhood. Research confirms that the brain is particularly receptive to learning math and logic between the ages of 1 and 4, and that early math skills are the most powerful predictors of later learning. (**JD Chesloff, Education Week, June 25, 2019**). But how do early childhood teachers incorporate such difficult subject matters with our youngest of children? Easy: let nature take over.

Most children naturally love the outdoors; exploring, touching, tasting, smelling, and digging into the natural world. Many early educators have shied away from allowing children to explore too deeply in mud, looking at bugs, and picking up rocks for fear of a child getting dirty, getting germs, or getting hurt. A child's natural curiosity should not be diminished, it should be expanded upon. Asking open-ended questions, touching items, mixing mud, mixing paint, looking for bugs with magnifying glasses, and going on treasure hunts in the great outdoors are amazing ways to work a child's love of STEAM into your everyday activities.



Science Activities

Using materials from inside and outside of your program, allow children to touch, smell, and taste (if appropriate). Think of different experiences and ask questions: Is it wet or dry? Hard or soft? Slimy or gritty? Smooth or rough? What does it smell like? Feel like? Look like? What happens if you shake it? Put it in water?

Drop different items into a bucket of water. Does it stay near the bottom or float to the top? Does it make a big splash or little splash? Why?

Technology Activities

Technology does not mean getting out a smartphone, or iPad, or tablet and allowing children to play on them. Technology is about using different tools to accomplish a task.

Make ramps, jumps, and inclines for car play.

Create scales out of small boards and rocks. Ask which is heavier and how do you know? What can we do to make the scale balance?

Engineering Activities

Give children many materials such as cardboard, paper, coloring materials, scissors, glue, tape, rulers, tape measures, and fabric pieces. Older kids can also have things like hammers, screwdrivers, nuts, bolts, wood, wood glue, and old wheels from toy trucks, etc. Let them create whatever they want and then describe what it is and why they made it.

Art Activities

Mix paint, use different sizes and styles of paint brushes, use different sizes of crayons and chalk, use spray bottles, eye droppers, sponges, cars, etc. to allow children to create their own artwork.

Incorporate the great outdoors into art! Mud, rocks, leaves, grass, flowers, pinecones, and acorns all make great materials for outdoor art.

Math

Count everything with children—how many steps does it take you to get to the bathroom? Let's count together. How many blocks are on your tower? There are seven blocks, do you think we can put two more blocks on your tower? Now how many blocks are there? Let's count them.

Sort items based on size, color, and weight.

Tape a number to a string and have children string that many beads onto the string.

STEAM Resources

Check out some of these resources to find more great STEAM ideas for early learners. Remember, children learn best when they are allowed to explore, manipulate, and touch items on their own.

- <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/topics/stem>
- <https://preschoolsteam.com/stem-activities-toddlers/>
- <https://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/earlylearning/talk-read-sing/stem-toolkit-preschool-teachers.pdf>
- <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2013/03/06/23chesloff.h32.html>
- <https://innovation.ed.gov/what-we-do/stem/early-stem-education/>



T.E.A.C.H. and REWARD Update

Wisconsin continues to invest in the early education workforce through the [T.E.A.C.H.](#) scholarship program and the [REWARD](#) stipend program. These programs are doing their part to transform the early education workforce into one that is well-respected, well-educated, better compensated, and prepared to meet the demands for higher quality care. As of spring 2019, more than 650 early childhood educators were enrolled in colleges around the state thanks to support from a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship; and 285 licensed group child care programs were serving as T.E.A.C.H. sponsors. As students finish up summer coursework, Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA) staff are busy renewing some of these scholarships and awarding new contracts for the fall semester.

Keeping educated professionals in child care programs is one of the biggest challenges we face. REWARD stipends help by providing some financial relief to more than 1,600 active recipients. Although the program is once again operating with a waiting list, eligible individuals continue to get stipends on a regular basis after waiting an average of

just two months.

For the latest on both programs, check out the WECA website at wisconsinearlychildhood.org.

T.E.A.C.H.

<https://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/t-e-a-c-h/>

REWARD

<https://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/reward/>

***WECA now has a “chat feature” so you can connect directly to us through our website. Both programs also have newly updated brochures. If you are in a position to provide outreach on these programs, please contact us for brochures: 608-240-9880 or 800-783-9322.*



New! Get WISER

Scholarship recipients are getting wiser by going to college, and our state is getting WISER through the new WISER (Wisconsin's Shared Education Resources) resource. WISER is a one-stop website for Wisconsin child care providers, administrators, educators, trainers and consultants. Managed by Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA), WISER provides many of the tools early education professionals need to meet increasing demands. Through DCF support, this online resource platform is FREE to all T.E.A.C.H. recipients and their sponsoring programs. It is available to others at a minimal cost with maximum benefits – including features such as a job board, administrative tools and templates, curriculum supports, discounts on services and materials, and more. Check it out at <https://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/resources/wiser/>.



Announcing the 2019 WECA Conference – November 14-16

Mark your calendars and get ready for another engaging [WECA Conference](https://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/conference/) (<https://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/conference/>). This year it takes place at [The Ingleside Hotel](#) in Pewaukee, WI, over a three-day period with three fabulous keynote presentations. On Thursday, November 14, Mary Harrill, Senior Director of Higher Education Accreditation and Program Support at [NAEYC](#), presents “Stepping into the Audacious Vision: A well-prepared, well-compensated ECE profession.” On Friday, November 15, we welcome Lea Denny, MS, CEO, Founder and Lead Clinical Psychotherapist of [Healing Intergenerational Roots Wellness Center](#) in West Allis, WI, and Tammy Scheidegger, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the Graduate Program in Counseling at Mount Mary University, presents “Historical and Institutional Trauma: The Power of Community Activated Resilience.” Lastly, on Saturday, November 16, we’re excited to have Wendy Ostroff, Ph.D, from the Hutchins School of Liberal Studies at Sonoma State University presents “Cultivating Curiosity in Play-Based Classrooms.”

Wisconsin Early Childhood Association is the state affiliate of NAEYC and draws over 500 attendees each year. Join us for three days of expansive professional development with more than 50 workshops, exhibits, program tours, and networking that will challenge you to deeply explore topics of leadership, resiliency and wonder!

