



Provider News: A Resource for Wisconsin Shares & YoungStar Providers

September 2018

Inside this issue

- Background Check Changes1
- New Training—Certified and Provisional Operators2
- Program Integrity Q&A2
- Subsidy Rate Increases.....3
- Correct Location Authorized? ..3
- DAP Training3
- Meet DAP Goals with Autumn Activities4
- Teaching Healthy Eating4
- Special Health Care Needs Class for Providers.....5
- TEACH/REWARD Update5
- WECA Conference—October ...5
- MyWIChildCare Feedback6
- CCIC Information6

Worthy Repeats

Important Regulation Information

Background Check Changes

You may have read recently, in the summer issue of the [Provider Newsletter](#) or in a [BECR Provider Memo](#), there will be changes in the way background checks are conducted for licensed and certified child care programs and public school-operated programs participating in YoungStar.

These changes are necessary because of federal changes to the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG), a key source of funding for DCF’s child care regulation and Wisconsin Shares programs. The Block Grant enhances the requirements for background checks by requiring states to conduct fingerprint-based FBI national criminal background checks prior to an individual working in child care settings, and every five years thereafter. The background check must also include a search of the National Sex Offender Registry and the Sex Offender Registry and Child Abuse and Neglect Registry in any state a person has resided in the past five years. The federal background check requirements apply to licensees, certified operators, adult household members in family child care settings, caregivers, and employees who may not care and supervise children, but who have unsupervised access to children.



Another significant change, particularly for licensed group child care centers and public school-operated programs, is that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) will conduct the background checks on employees. In addition, the responsibility for conducting background checks for certified child care programs will shift from the local certification agency to DCF. DCF will begin conducting background checks on all *new* prospective employees in licensed and certified programs, and for *new* applications for certification beginning October 1, 2018.

For more information on how the changes in the background check process will affect your child care program and the implementation timeline for these changes, please see the appropriate sections on our website: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cclicensing/cbc-updates>. Be sure to check back to this page often, as we will continue to update and add additional detail to the FAQs. In the meantime, we’d like to acknowledge the important work you do every day in caring for children entrusted to you by families who live and work in your community. Thank you for your commitment to Wisconsin’s children.



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

Training Corner

Sharpen your professional skills with new training opportunities!

SFTA Training Opportunities

<https://supportingfamiliesogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2018-Annual-Training-Calendar-6.29.18-For-SFTA.pdf>

WECA Training Opportunities

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

The Registry Training Opportunities

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



Important Regulation Information *(continued)*

Reminder: New Training Requirements for Certified Child Care Operators

Changes to Wisconsin State Statutes (s. 48.651) now require all certified family child care operators to successfully complete department-approved preservice training that covers specific health and safety topics, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and child development. Requirements for preservice training may be met by completion of the following department-approved courses for certified family child care:

- Introduction to the Child Care Profession (Module A)
- Fundamentals of Family Child Care
- CPR training (infant/child)

For more information, visit <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cccertification/training>.



Implementation Timeline for Regular Certified Operators

Existing Regular operators who were granted certification prior to 4/1/18 will need to complete infant/child CPR training by 10/1/18. Any existing Regular operator who does not comply with the statutory training requirement by 10/1/18 is out of compliance and may be subject to enforcement action ranging from suspension to revocation.

Implementation Timeline for Provisional Certified Operators



Existing Provisional operators who were granted certification prior to 4/1/18 will need to complete Introduction to the Child Care Profession (Module A), Fundamentals of Family Child Care and infant/child CPR training by 10/1/18. Any existing Provisional operator who does not comply with the statutory training requirement by 10/1/18 is out of compliance and may be subject to enforcement action ranging from suspension to revocation.

If you have questions regarding these new training requirements please contact your local certification agency <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/ccregulation/cccertification/certifiers.pdf>.

Q&A with the Bureau of Program Integrity



Question: *I operate a child care center and many children attended over the summer. Now that school is in session again, some of the children who receive Wisconsin Shares Subsidy Funds haven't been attending. What do I do?*

Answer: It is best practice to communicate with families when a child doesn't attend the facility to determine **why** the child hasn't attended. It is now policy, that if a child has not been in attendance for 30 days, that the provider contacts the local agency or uses the [Provider Portal](#) to report the last day of the child's attendance.

Question: *A lead teacher at my child care center is retiring at the end of the month. Do I need to make any updates to my Registry Program Profile?*

Answer: Yes! Anytime there is a staff change, the Program Profile must be updated. Program Profiles must be

kept accurate to ensure the provider receives the correct YoungStar rating. Failing to keep an accurate Program Profile in order to receive a higher YoungStar rating is an [intentional program violation](#) and may result in an overpayment and/or termination from the Wisconsin Shares program.

Question: *Do I still need to use Attendance Records or Sign In/Sign Out (SISO) sheets with MyWICild-Care?*

Answer: YES! Attendance Records, also known as SISOs, are still very important in MyWICildCare. Child Care Licensing, Certification, and Wisconsin Shares policy requires that providers keep accurate daily attendance records. All children that attend the facility must be listed.

Remember: A child's arrival and departure times should be to the minute. Not keeping accurate attendance may result in an overpayment. **Reminder:** these records must be maintained and available for three (3) years.



Subsidy Rate Increases Positively Impact the Early Education Field



Governor Walker recently announced several positive changes regarding Wisconsin Shares subsidies; all with the goals of helping parents access high-quality care while supporting you to provide it! These changes – beginning October 1, 2018 – are in addition to previously announced Wisconsin Shares increases that will begin on January 1, 2019.

Starting October 1, 2018

- The maximum Wisconsin Shares rates for children birth through three years old will be increased by 5% statewide

- In addition, any licensed county maximum infant rates that remain below \$5 per hour will be raised to \$5 per hour
- Families who select 2 Star programs will only see a 1% reduction from their Wisconsin Shares subsidy amount, a significant decrease from the current 5% reduction

Starting January 1, 2019

- Wisconsin Shares maximum rates will increase in all age groups, statewide

New Online Training: YoungStar Developmentally Appropriate Environments

The winter 2017 DCF Provider Newsletter outlined the new 2019/2020 YoungStar point B.1.3., named Developmentally Appropriate Environments, Incorporating the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards and/or School-Age Curricular Framework. This point will be required to earn a 3, 4, or 5 Star rating when programs complete their 2019/2020 rating.

To assist providers and teachers with the new requirement, DCF is creating a free online training that provides strategies and examples for best practices in this area. DCF is also working with The Registry to offer the training on their site, allowing individuals with Registry accounts to receive continuing education credit upon completion. Visit <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers/ysupdates> for up-to-date information on how to access the free online training. (Title of training: *YoungStar Developmentally Appropriate Environments Indicator B.1.3. Training*)

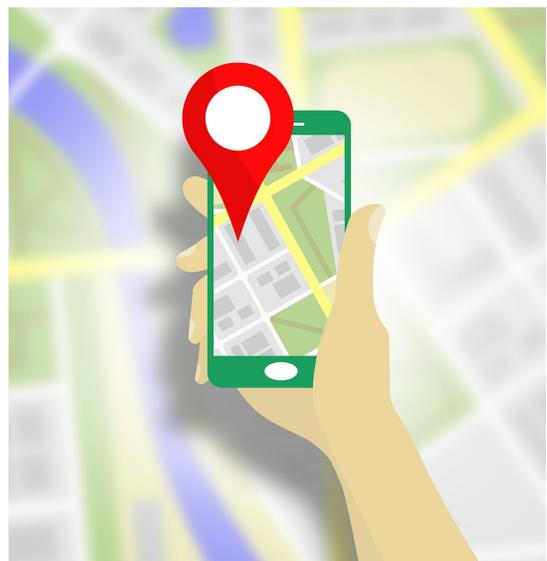
In addition, local Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies are offering a three-hour face-to-face version of the training throughout the state. (Title of training: *Learning Environments and Curriculum Through the Lens of DAP*) Explore offerings in your area by browsing the YoungStar Training Calendar or The Registry's Statewide Training Event Calendar at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers/training>.

Is the Child Care Authorization for the Correct Location?



Providers who operate more than one location must pay careful attention to their authorization notices. Each authorization notice includes the **location and address** to which a child is authorized to attend.

Caring for a child in a location other than the one authorized may result in a 100% overpayment for all of that care. If you note that a child in your care is authorized for the incorrect location, you must ask the parent to contact his or her local agency worker to correct the authorization right away.



10 Must-Do Autumn Activities to Support Children at Different Stages of Development

Fall is here and it's time for crisp, cool air and pumpkin play! Using varied teaching strategies to ensure that every child in your care learns best, and using materials and activities that are at the right level of difficulty is at the heart of developmentally appropriate practices (DAP).

Below are 10 great examples of fall activities to help your classroom or program understand and welcome a season of change, and all the fun that comes with it.

Activities for Infants or Toddlers

- Add gourds and pumpkins to the room. Allow children to touch, smell, roll, etc. under close supervision.
- Taste test different apples: talk about sweet, sour, crunchy, soft, and smooth textures.
- Go on walks with toddlers, point out flowers, trees, bugs, and worms.
- Place infants on the grass outside. Talk about the colors around them, the feel of the breeze, the clouds up in the sky, the feel of the grass.
- Have many different books available that show nature, diversity, and people around the world. Point to the pictures and explain what is happening.



Activities for Preschoolers

- Dig out pumpkins, talk about the feeling (slimy, soft, stringy). Clean and bake the seeds, and talk about how they feel before and after baking.
- Do cooking projects (applesauce, pumpkin pie, zucchini bread, etc.). Talk about measurements, consistency, and temperature.
- Offer stories about how fall fruits and veggies grow.
- Offer stories about what people in other parts of the world do during this time of the year.
- Go on nature walks. Bring binoculars (can make homemade ones with toilet paper tubes), magnifying glasses, water bottles, etc.
- Make the dramatic play area into a farmer's market, campground, pumpkin patch, or football stadium.



Teaching Healthy Eating: No More Desserts or Sweet Treats

By WI Department of Public Instruction, Community Nutrition Programs

One goal of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is to teach children about healthy eating. Meal times should be used as teachable moments, helping to shape the food choices children will make later in life. Because of this, grain-based desserts (GBDs) cannot be served in the CACFP (they are not creditable to the meal pattern).

GBDs are items commonly thought of as a dessert or sweet treat, and include cake, granola and cereal bars, doughnuts, cookies, sweet rolls and toaster pastries – items that are often high in sugar and fat. Some GBDs may be labeled with a different name (i.e. breakfast flat instead of granola bar or breakfast round instead of cookie), however, they are still a GBD and must not be served.

By serving GBDs, children learn to view these foods as a healthy snack. Even items homemade with healthy ingredients (i.e. less sugar and/or fat) are NOT creditable because they are still identified as a GBD, and while a homemade version may be healthier, often what is purchased in stores is not.

Programs are also discouraged from serving creditable foods that contain sweet ingredients, as they are perceived as a sweet treat.

For more information about and a full list of GBDs, visit https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/community-nutrition/pdf/grain_based_dessert_handout.pdf.



Special Health Care Needs Class for Child Care Providers



This course will have a medical focus and covers frequently encountered specialized health care needs of individuals with disabilities, preparing the student to examine altered body systems function, including sensory, gastrointestinal (tube feedings), bowel and bladder elimination, respiratory (allergies and asthma), cardiovascular/blood, musculoskeletal, neurological, skin/immune, and endocrine (diabetes) related issues. Students will not be practicing medicine, but will gain a better understanding of medical issues and professionals who can support you in establishing policies and procedures that assure safe, quality care for all.

Note: This is an accelerated Registry course and does not align with either the Early Childhood Technical Diploma or Associate Degree Pathway program.

Course Number: CHILDD-141-150 (Required to enroll for this class)

Dates: 9/8/18, 9/22/18, 10/6/18, 10/20/18, 11/3/18, 11/17/18. Additional periods required online.

Cost: Approximately \$456. *All fees are subject to change.

Registration: Call MATC at 414-297-6282 or 800-720-6282 with the course number listed above. Or, register online at <http://www.matc.edu/>.

Call Ann Farah with Milwaukee Early Care Administration, if you have any questions at 414-615-6347.

Update on T.E.A.C.H. And REWARD



We have good news: For over a year now, the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Wisconsin Scholarship Program has been operating with a Waiting List. But, by making some program changes, we're gradually diminishing this list. We've gone from over 500 applicants waiting, to less than 150. Most applicants will now wait no longer than a semester. Help us spread the word: T.E.A.C.H. is still the best deal in town for making your education affordable!

More good news: The REWARD Stipend Program – designed to encourage retention by providing financial incentives to those who complete certain levels of education and stay in the field -- eliminated its Waiting List. As Race to the Top funding came to a close in December 2017, DCF provided REWARD a one-time-only award of additional funding. Nearly \$1 million went out of our office and into the pockets of early childhood educators to close out 2017! It was this award that freed up some of our T.E.A.C.H./REWARD state budget funding to reduce the waiting list for scholarships. So if you're eligible, don't miss out; it's a great time to apply!

More information about applying for T.E.A.C.H. and REWARD can be found on the WECA website www.wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/.

Technology Meets ECE - Don't miss the 2018 WECA Conference!

**October 26-27, 2018 at the Madison Marriott
West, Middleton, WI**

The 2018 WECA Statewide Early Childhood Conference kicks off this year with a Parent-Provider event on Thursday evening, October 25, featuring Lisa Guernsey. Ms. Guernsey, Deputy Director of the Education Policy Program at New America, will speak from her works as an author of: *Screen Time: How Electronic Media Affects Your Young Child* and *Tap, Click, Read: Growing Readers in a World of Screens*.

Following are two exciting days for you to gather new ideas and materials through workshops, exhibits, networking, and a keynote presentation by Ms. Guernsey. Themes that we hope to explore this year include: Technology and ECE, Play-Based Learning, Reflective Practice, Workforce Supports and Well-Being, and Anti-Bias Early Education.

Save the date and keep updated on the WECA website (www.wisconsinearlychildhood.org). We hope to see you all there!



We Heard from You!



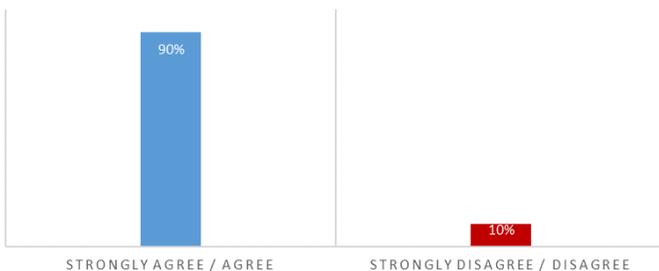
MyWIChildCare Statewide Feedback

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) surveyed 172 child care providers and 166 parents using Wisconsin Shares before and after the rollout of MyWIChildCare to understand how the EBT payment system has impacted them. Child care providers and parents overwhelmingly felt they understood the MyWIChildCare program after rollout. Child care providers and parents who used multiple resources like attending an in-person training, speaking with other parents or child care providers, reading the materials they received in the mail, or using the DCF website to learn about MyWIChildCare felt more prepared. Seventy-five percent (75%) of child care providers said they spend less time on billing and record keeping after MyWIChildCare. Ninety percent (90%) of parents said they knew their child care costs after MyWIChildCare. Thank you to all child care providers and parents who have worked so hard to smoothly transition to MyWIChildCare.

Child Care Provider Response to, "Overall, I feel I spend less time on billing and record keeping than I did before MyWIChildCare."



Parent Response to, "I know my current child care costs" after MyWIChildCare.



Thank you to all child care providers and parents who have worked so hard to smoothly transition to MyWIChildCare.

Child Care Information Center

The Wisconsin Child Care Information Center (CCIC) is a mail-order lending library and information clearinghouse serving anyone in Wisconsin working in the field of child care and early childhood education. Our goal is to help Wisconsin child care professionals give the best possible start to Wisconsin's children.

Information to Answer Your Questions

- Free brochures, tip sheets, and articles
- Consultation to help you find trustworthy information
- Help using CCIC, Licensing, YoungStar, and Registry websites
- Referrals to other agencies, websites, and experts

Lending Library

- Specialized books and DVDs loaned through the mail for only the cost of return postage—or delivered to your local public library for you to pick up and return there
- Materials recommended by YoungStar and Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards
- For training, self-study, problem solving, and quality improvement
- DVDs loaned for one week, books for two weeks

CCIC Web Pages

- FREE materials to print or order online for licensing compliance and parent support
- New online catalog to easily search for books and DVDs to borrow from CCIC
- *Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards* purchasing information

ccic.wi.gov

1.800.362.7353

ccic@wisconsin.gov

