



Provider News: A Resource for Wisconsin Shares & YoungStar Providers

Summer 2018

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Important Regulation Updates

Background Check Changes are Coming!



Beginning fall 2018, there will be changes in the way background checks are conducted for prospective employees who begin working after 10/1/18 in licensed centers, and for new certification applicants (who apply on or after 10/1/18). For information on the changes, please visit our background check web page <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cclicensing/cbc-updates>. Check the site frequently for updates as more information becomes available.

Please note – It is recommended that Licensed centers continue to conduct annual name-based background checks on all existing employees hired prior to 10/1/18. The Department of Children and Families will notify programs when the responsibility for background checks on existing employees will transfer to DCF.

Reminder: New Training Requirements for Certified Child Care Operators

Certified child care operators have new training requirements. BECR Memo 2018-01 was mailed to certified child care operators on 2/28/18, and provided notice of new preservice training and annual continuing education requirements.

Under s. 48.651, stats. all certified family child care operators shall 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)
 - CPR training must result in a certificate of completion. If the certificate of completion does not have a date specifying the length of time for which it is valid, the CPR training must be renewed every year.



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

Training Corner

Sharpen your professional skills with new training opportunities!

SFTA Training Opportunities

<http://supportingfamiliesogether.org/wp-content/uploads/Annual-Training-Calendar.pdf>

WECA Training Opportunities

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

The Registry Training Opportunities

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

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Important Regulation Updates *(continued)*

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.

Continuing Education

In addition to preservice training, s. 48.651, Stats. requires all certified child care operators and other child care providers working in the certified setting to complete 10 hours of continuing education annually.

Please review BECR Memo 2018-01 for more details at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/ccregulation/memos>, or visit the Certification Training webpage <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cccertification/training>. If you have questions please contact your certification worker.

MECA Corner

Milwaukee County: Do You Need Assistance With Wisconsin Shares?



Did you know Milwaukee County parents and providers don't need to wait on the Child Care Authorization phone line to have a question answered? Milwaukee County now has two Parent Provider Liaisons who handle a large variety of issues for our parents and child care providers. Services include:

- Wisconsin Shares Subsidy payment education
- Understanding the authorization process
- Policy questions or concerns
- Education of parents and providers on updating and termination of child care authorizations online using the portals

Providers are welcome to share this contact information with your parents when clarification or assistance is needed. **The best times to call for assistance are between the hours of 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.**

Walk-in clients can request assistance, but calling ahead is recommended. **The Parent Provider Liaison contact number is 414-615-6318.**

Written Payment Agreement Reminder

Providers, please remember that June 1, 2018, is the deadline for the Written Payment Agreement Requirement. Read more about this on the DCF website at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/progintegrity/providers>.

Accelerated Inclusion Credential Classes

MECA is in new partnership with MATC offering accelerated Inclusion Credential classes in Milwaukee on Saturdays. Please call 414-615-6347, or email ann.farah@wisconsin.gov for an updated class schedule. All are welcome to participate!



NAEYC Updated Accreditation Standards and Assessments

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has worked with industry leaders and early care and education professionals to identify high-quality standards that relate to measurable child outcomes. Considering this information, along with feedback from programs who have experienced accreditation, NAEYC has developed an updated set of Accreditation Standards and Assessment Items. While the intent of supporting and assessing quality child care programming remains, the language describing the standards is simplified and assessment items are reorganized to make sense in the context of daily practice and implementation. The actual process of accreditation has been streamlined and condensed to aid in successful completion. For example, the amount of evidence programs prepare has been reduced by 60%! Programs will prepare 375 assessment items in portfolios and observations, as opposed to the over 900 assessable indicators in the previous model.

Standard 6, formerly titled “Teachers,” has been renamed “Staff Competencies, Preparation, and Support,” and has been enhanced to include a focus on supportive work environments, professional identity and recognition, qualifications of teaching and administrative staff, and ongoing professional development. Programs should be aware that although teacher education will be assessed, it is no longer required that 75% of teaching staff hold a bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education. Increased flexibility



NAEYC Accreditation of Early Learning Programs

in scoring measures allow opportunities for programs to develop quality improvement strategies for targeted areas identified in NAEYC’s assessment.

By taking a more proactive role in the accreditation process, NAEYC is initiating an effort to rebrand themselves as a resource and support for programs, rather than an additional regulation or burden. A variety of online tools and resources are being developed to aid in this process, such as the Accreditation Information System (AIS), which should be available later this year.

Teaching Staff Qualifications

Myths	Facts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs cannot earn NAEYC Accreditation unless 75% of their teachers have bachelor’s degrees in Early Childhood Education. • Standard 6 is only about teacher education qualifications. • Programs cannot hire staff that do not meet the standards; programs can only hire staff with ECE degrees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criteria 6.A.05 and 6.A.06 address teaching staff qualifications and are always assessed criteria, but are not required. • Standard 6 includes educational qualifications, knowledge and competencies, and professional commitment. • Standard 6 addresses both minimal and ideal levels of educational qualifications desirable to support a program of excellence.

Current accredited programs, or those considering NAEYC accreditation in an effort to receive a 5 Star YoungStar rating, should note that the updated standards will be used to assess any program whose renewal or candidacy materials were postmarked after March 15, 2018. Crosswalks are available on the NAEYC website to assist programs in converting classroom and program portfolios to reflect the updated standards.

Please visit www.naeyc.org or reach out to NAEYC regional contact Meghann Hickey at mhickey@naeyc.org for more information.

NAEYC Accreditation of Early Learning Programs



Important Program Integrity Updates

All Wisconsin Shares Providers Are Required to Have a Written Payment Agreement by June 1, 2018



Effective June 1, 2018, all providers who care for families receiving Wisconsin Shares must have a written Provider/Parent Payment Agreement. Providers are required to keep a written agreement for each Wisconsin Shares family at the location where care is provided. You must keep the agreement for at least three (3) years after the child's last day of attendance at a location where it can be made available to the Department of Children and Families within 24 hours.

Providers may utilize the Provider/Parent Payment Agreement form that is available on the DCF website at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/forms> and select [DCF-F-5224-E](#).

If you create your own Provider/Parent Agreement form, it must include the following information:

- Provider's monthly or weekly child care price
- Days and hours of operation

- Deposit policy
- Any discounts or scholarships that are available to parents, and that the parent is receiving
- Parent's payment schedule
- Payment dispute policy
- Provider's anticipated closure dates and policy for payments during closures
- Payment expectations for the child's anticipated/unanticipated absences
- Parent procedures for termination of a child's enrollment
- Provider procedures for termination of a child's enrollment

Online Training Opportunities

Supporting Families Together Association, along with the Child Care Resource and Referral agencies, are now offering online learning opportunities for child care providers. Our online learning initiative aims to offer high-quality professional development opportunities that are responsive to the needs of Wisconsin child care providers. This initiative was developed to offer affordable options for continuing education and increase access to the trainings that are needed and desired. This online learning initiative is driven by several factors including:

- Feedback from training participants
- Evolution of training delivery and technology
- Commitment to better meet the needs of the early childhood education field
- Need for improved training access and availability
- An aim to increase training delivery and participation
- A desire to be more cost effective in training execution

After researching solutions in online learning, a decision was made to partner with UW-Platteville and utilize their chosen online learning management system. After conducting a pilot at the end of 2016, we are in the process of converting some existing face-to-face trainings to also be available in the online platform. Currently, five online courses have been completed and three more are in progress. Courses include:

- Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education (English and Spanish)



- Wisconsin Early Care and Education Physical Activity (Active Early)
- Family Engagement: Partnering with Families for Children's Success
- Developing a Child Portfolio: Documenting a Journey
- Germs, Worms, Mud, and Crud
- More trainings will become available throughout 2018.

These online courses are available across the CCR&R network's 10 Agencies and the CCR&R Network office: Supporting Families Together Association. If you are interested in learning more about this initiative, or would like to participate in the CCR&R networks' online training offerings, contact your local CCR&R Agency or Supporting Families Together Association. Or, visit the SFTA website at <https://supportingfamilies.together.org> and click on "Online Learning for Early Childhood Professionals" under the Quick Links tab to view a calendar of online courses being offered by all CCR&R agencies.



Farmers' Market FAQ for Early Care & Education Programs

Article written by: Jill Carlson Groendyk, Community Groundworks

Farmers' market season is upon us in Wisconsin! Farmers' markets across the state are opening back up for the outdoor 2018 season. Here are some FAQs to help you visit your local farmers' market with the children in your care.

Why should I take my program to a farmers' market?

Farmers' markets are great opportunities to purchase local, in-season, and fresh produce for use at your site in meals, snacks, and taste-tests. They are also fantastic places for children to learn about the world around them! Whether trying to spot every color of the rainbow, learning how dirt makes cheese curds, or observing the weather, farmers' markets are full of opportunities for children to be curious, ask questions, and explore.

How do I find a farmer's market near me?

Check out the Wisconsin Farm Fresh Atlas: <http://farmfreshatlas.org/> to find a market near you. You can also check out the USDA National Farmers' Market Directory: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/local-food-directories/farmersmarkets>

What does 'in-season' mean?

Many farmers' markets (but not all) feature locally grown products. This means that farmers planted, cared for, and harvested fruits and veggies in accordance with the area's climate and soil conditions. Eating 'in-season' means that you are getting the freshest (and often most flavorful!) fruits and veggies around. Look for radishes, lettuce, asparagus, and snap peas in spring. Look for tomatoes, peppers, and zucchini in the hotter months of summer. Look for apples and winter squash in the fall. Check out this Wisconsin food seasonality chart for more info: <https://www.cias.wisc.edu/foodservtools/2-Get-started/wisconsin-produce-calendar.pdf>

When should my program visit the market during the day?

Go early if you want to make sure you have access to the largest selection possible - many popular items are sold out early. Go near the end of market to potentially score better prices - some farmers will mark down prices near the end of the day.

Are there only fruits and veggies at farmers' markets?

You can find food for the whole plate from a farmers' mar-

kets - with many featuring dairy, grain, egg, and meat items in addition to fruits and vegetables. You can often find seedlings to start, or continue, a garden at your program.

For more ideas to engage children at farmers' markets, check out [Farmers' Market Activity Ideas for Young Children](http://communitygroundworks.org/sites/default/files/Farmers%27%20Market%20Activity%20Ideas%20for%20Young%20Children.pdf) (<http://communitygroundworks.org/sites/default/files/Farmers%27%20Market%20Activity%20Ideas%20for%20Young%20Children.pdf>) from Community GroundWorks.

Have more questions about purchasing local for meals and snacks? Check out [Let's Go to the Farmers' Market!](http://communitygroundworks.org/sites/default/files/Let%27s%20Go%20to%20the%20Farmers%27%20Market%21.pdf) (<http://communitygroundworks.org/sites/default/files/Let%27s%20Go%20to%20the%20Farmers%27%20Market%21.pdf>)



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 25th, 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 of engaging with 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!

