



# DCF Provider News: A Resource for Wisconsin Shares & YoungStar Providers

## Lunching with Little Ones

### Making Healthy Summer Food Choices

The sun is out, heavy clothes are hidden away; suddenly you are full of energy! Now is the time to re-commit to healthy eating for your little ones, and you.

### Lifelong Healthy Eating Habits are Built in Childhood

Breaking unhealthy eating habits as an adult is harder than learning healthy eating habits as a child. <http://www.choosemyplate.gov/preschoolers.html>

As a child care provider, parent, or other adult in a child's life, you have a huge effect on children's



eating choices and habits. Good nutrition keeps children physically healthy, so that they are prepared to learn and grow at their highest potential.

- Kids in the Kitchen <http://www.nutrition.gov/life-stages/children/kids-kitchen>

- Healthy Bites Training & Book [http://fns.dpi.wi.gov/fns\\_cacfpwellnessaehb](http://fns.dpi.wi.gov/fns_cacfpwellnessaehb)

### Plan for Affordable, Healthy Food Choices

Food need not be expensive to be healthy. Here is how to eat healthy without spending a fortune.

- Healthy Eating on a Budget <http://www.choosemyplate.gov/budget/index.html>

- Food Sen\$e: Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program <http://fyi.uwex.edu/foodsense/>

### Keep Healthy Eating a Positive Experience

Body image issues, like eating habits, form early in life. Ensure that as you teach children healthy eating habits you also teach them to embrace their bodies and appreciate their physical uniqueness.

- Body Image and Your Kids <http://www.womenshealth.gov/body-image/kids/>

- Children, Teens, Media, and Body Image <https://www.common sense media.org/children-teens-body-image-media-infographic>

**Summer 2015**

**Inside this issue**

Lunching with Little Ones .... 1

ARF and CCPI Provider Agreement Text Changes ..... 2

MECA Corner ..... 3

CCDBG Reauthorization ..... 4

New YoungStar Marketing Efforts ..... 4

Afterschool Credential Training Class ..... 5

Online Resources: Poisonous Plants ..... 6

T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Info... 7

Updated Child Care URLs..... 8

New Family Engagement Training ..... 8

## BONUS

Recipes shared by Wisconsin Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) agencies:

- Rock and Roll Beef Wraps <http://www.beeftips.com/recipe.aspx?id=5481>
- 14 Brain Power Snacks for Your Kids <http://www.skinnymom.com/14-brain-power-snacks-for-your-kids/>
- Fruit Salsa and Cinnamon Chips <http://allrecipes.com/recipe/annies-fruit-salsa-and-cinnamon-chips/>
- Food Sen\$e Newsletters <http://fyi.uwex.edu/foodsense/past-issues/>

See Healthy Lunch Infographic on page 2



# DCF Provider News: A Resource for Wisconsin Shares & YoungStar Providers

Lunching with Little Ones continued from page 1

## Lunching With Little Ones

Making Healthy Summer Food Choices

Surround me with healthy food options and watch me learn to enjoy and choose healthy foods on my own!

**Whole Grains**

**Protein**

**Hydration**

**Vegetables**

**Fruits**

**Dairy**

Choose [MyPlate.gov](http://MyPlate.gov)

**Did You Know?**

"Over 30% of Wisconsin's low-income 2 to 4 year olds are overweight or obese."<sup>\*\*</sup>

"Kids who actually enjoy healthy foods may be less likely to join the growing number of their peers who face weight problems."<sup>\*\*\*</sup>

"Food preferences that children develop in their early years remain fairly stable and are reflected by the food choices they make in later childhood."<sup>\*\*\*</sup>

**Healthy Bites**

✚ Don't forget, healthy eating is key, but it is most effective when paired with daily physical activity and movement!

<sup>\*</sup>Healthy Bites: A Wisconsin guide for improving childhood nutrition  
<sup>\*\*</sup>How Do We Get Kids to Like Healthy Foods?  
<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Win Over Picky Eaters

Please note: This infographic was created by Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA). However, all links, references, and the MyPlate logo were compiled and used for reference and information, and are not the property or creation of SFTA or our partners.

## ARF and CCPI Provider Agreement Text Changes

The provider Agreements that are contained in the Attendance Report Forms and in CCPI have recently been updated. This information was provided in check stuffers in March and April. Please be sure to read through the updated Provider Agreements when preparing your attendance reports for reimbursement.

In most circumstances, the time you report for reimbursement from the Wisconsin Shares program will be the same hours the child was in attendance as recorded on the Sign-In-Sign-Out (SISO) sheets. However, there are some situations where you should not report time for reimbursement from Wisconsin Shares.

This includes, but is not limited to, the following situations:

- Your child care program is above your program's regulated capacity.
- Child care is provided outside of your program's regulated hours of operation.
- The parent is paying for the care him or herself or you are not requesting payment for the care.
- The child is in shared placement and the attended time is for care provided when the child is not with the parent who has the Wisconsin Shares subsidy.

Continued on page 3





## DCF Provider News: A Resource for Wisconsin Shares & YoungStar Providers

### ARF Text Changes continued from page 2

When the SISO sheets contain more hours than the Attendance Report Form (ARF) due to the above situations, you must document the reasons by attaching the information to the SISO sheets.

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) encourages parents to sign the weekly SISO sheets to help ensure accurate reporting of attendance. The local agency will only process the ARF for hours within your hours of operation. When attendance is reported for reimbursement outside of your hours of operation, the local agency will report this information to the DCF Bureau of Program Integrity.

You may report concerns about the misuse of the child care subsidy to the local agency or DCF for investigation and recoupment against the parent. Reports can be made to DCF by emailing:

[dcfmbchildcarefraud@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dcfmbchildcarefraud@wisconsin.gov) or calling 1-877-302-3728.

*“DCF encourages parents to sign the weekly SISO sheets to ensure accurate reporting of attendance.”*

**Visit [dcf.wi.gov](http://dcf.wi.gov) for the latest WI Shares updates.**

### Shared Placement of Children

When two parents have shared placement of their children, the authorization worker and the parent are responsible to communicate to you that attendance should only be reported for reimbursement for those days that the child is under the care of the parent with the Wisconsin Shares subsidy. The provider reporting agreement text is being updated on both the paper ARF and CCPI online provider agreements to reflect these changes.

*Please be sure to read through the updated Provider Agreements when preparing your attendance reports for reimbursement.”*

### MECA Corner

*(Milwaukee County Providers Only)*

#### Inclusion Credential Classes



MECA's Special Needs Support Program has partnered with Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

(NWTC) to offer intensive Early Childhood: Inclusion Credential classes on Saturdays in downtown Milwaukee. Working with children who have special needs can present unique challenges and opportunities to child care staff. Even experienced practitioners have felt intimidated when serving this population due to a lack of up-to-date information. This certificate is designed to help providers build the skills, knowledge, and resources to work successfully with ALL children in their programs.

These classes were designed for providers who prefer a traditional, face-to-face teaching style. Classes are offered on Saturdays so providers can learn in a relaxed, stress-free atmosphere. Completion of all four courses will prepare child care providers to receive the Wisconsin Inclusion Credential from The Registry and to improve their ranking with YoungStar. The next session of classes begins on May 30. Please check MECA's website for more details.

<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/meca/default.htm>.



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### NEW! CCDBG Reauthorization: A Historic Re-Envisioning of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

In November 2014, President Obama signed the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 into law. The CCDBG Act of 2014 re-authorizes the child care program for the first time since 1996.

The new law makes significant advancements by defining health and safety requirements for child care providers, outlining family-friendly eligibility policies, and ensuring that parents and the general public have transparent information about the child care choices available to them. These changes reflect a new era for child care in this country and an opportunity to improve the learning experiences of millions of children every day.

Over the next year, DCF will be working with early childhood stakeholders to implement the changes and new provisions in the law and will be sharing information about these provisions as decisions are made and details become known. The department is looking forward to working collaboratively with our early childhood stakeholders as well as our early childhood education partners in this process.

For more information on the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 and the efforts of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), visit the DCF CCDBG web page at:

<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/ccdbg/default.htm>

### YoungStar Marketing Efforts

As part of our ongoing efforts to increase awareness of YoungStar and its many benefits, DCF has been working with a local marketing firm to develop new YoungStar promotional materials. These items include brochures; videos; fact sheets; print, radio, and online advertising; press releases and news articles; and other materials.

Some of our marketing effort objectives include:

- Teaching parents about the value of YoungStar
- Getting parents to recognize the value of quality child care
- Helping parents understand the rating system and how to use it when choosing child care
- Getting parents to encourage their child care providers to enhance their practices and increase their star ratings
- Encouraging parents to visit the YoungStar website (<http://youngstar.wisconsin.gov/>) to learn more

- Supporting parents to become “YoungStar Ambassadors” to spread the word about YoungStar and quality child care

Please view the new marketing materials on the YoungStar website:

<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/campaign.htm>.

You can request copies of the new parent and provider brochures from your local YoungStar office. The brochures are available in English and Spanish.





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### Afterschool Credential Training Class a Success

With funds from the Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge Grant, DCF created the Educational Opportunities Grant to partner with Wisconsin's institutes of higher education and offer credit-based instruction at no cost to child care providers working in 2 or 3 Star-rated child care programs.

When Michele Turner from Roberson's Kiddie Lane Day Care in Milwaukee learned about this opportunity, she contacted UW-Platteville. UW-Platteville planned to offer a number of courses through a combination of online and live web-conferencing course delivery state-wide with funds from the Educational Opportunities Grant. Michele saw a need to provide the courses on-site in Milwaukee in order to provide more computer training and peer support. Michele worked with Chenoa Ruecking, Education and Training Coordinator at UW-Platteville, to deliver an innovative credential program that blends Internet-based and on-site learning on Saturdays at her Milwaukee center.

"Sometimes funding can be a limitation for child care workers—they can't afford the courses, textbooks, and other resources—but this program made that possible," Michele said. "I had people calling and texting to see when their books would be in. They were so excited to



Michelle Turner (standing at far right), worked with Chenoa Ruecking, the Education and Training Coordinator at UW-Platteville, to deliver classes on Saturdays in Milwaukee.

learn and get started, so having the DCF support was huge."

"Michele's passion is inspiring," Chenoa said. "She saw a need in her community and made it happen. I was lucky enough to experience one of the classes, and the creativity in the room was amazing. All of the early childhood educators are dedicated to earning the credential and to improving the quality of the child care that they provide. I am so proud that UW-Platteville Continuing Education has been a part of this exciting initiative."

Michele, too, was amazed at the creativity made possible through the DCF funding. "It's been so rewarding to see that, after just one class, providers are making a difference

in their classrooms. They may not be able to change their facility, but we talked about how they can change the learning environment in their classrooms. Some of the providers even got additional support from their programs to make improvements. It's meant an incredible positive change for the kids."

A total of 18 students from the Milwaukee region completed the first course in the Afterschool Credential.





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### Online Resources— Poisonous Plants

If you have small children or pets in your home or around your program, as well as indoor and outdoor plants, this publication from UW Health called “Common Plants – What’s Poisonous and What’s Not?” might come in handy! Many plants can cause problems if eaten or after skin and eye contact. To protect children and pets it is important to know the common and botanical names of all your plants, whether indoors or outside. Read more about how to keep children and pets safe around plants.

[http://www.uwhealth.org/files/uwhealth/docs/pdf/poisonous\\_plants.pdf](http://www.uwhealth.org/files/uwhealth/docs/pdf/poisonous_plants.pdf)

**Common Plants**  
What's Poisonous and What's Not?

Leaves    Bulbs    Seeds    Berries

**UW Health**  
American Family  
Children's Hospital

**Wisconsin  
Poison Center**  
A program of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

[uwhealth.org/poison](http://uwhealth.org/poison)

### 2016 YoungStar Evaluation Criteria Draft Coming Soon



In July, watch the YoungStar website and listserv for the 2016 YoungStar Evaluation Criteria Draft. There will be a number of changes, so you will want to work with your YoungStar Technical Consultant to plan to meet those changes to maintain or increase your star rating. Final versions of the criteria in English, Spanish, and Hmong will be posted by November 1.

You can read more about the 2015 Evaluation Criteria here:

<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/point-detail.htm>.

### Supporting Inclusive Practices with Professional Development Resources

[The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center](#) and [Early Learning Challenge Technical Assistance Program](#) have collaborated to create a compilation of professional development resources to support inclusive practices.

The focus is on resources used to prepare personnel to serve young children with disabilities in settings with their typically developing peers, which is a requirement of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

These resources from federally funded programs, national organizations, and states are intended to be used by personnel in state agencies, training and technical assistance systems, and institutions of higher education, as well as by local program administrators and staff.

View the resources here:

- Part 1: Description of Resources in the Compilation  
<http://aemcorp.cmail1.com/t/i-l-ykjuddk-tiudjtkc/>
- Part 2: Matrix of Resources from Projects and National Associations  
<http://aemcorp.cmail1.com/t/i-l-ykjuddk-tiudjtkc-q/>
- Part 3: Matrix of Resources Developed by Individual States  
<http://aemcorp.cmail1.com/t/i-l-ykjuddk-tiudjtkc-a/>

If you have any questions regarding the resources, please contact [shelley.defosset@elcta.org](mailto:shelley.defosset@elcta.org)





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## T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships Offer More Value to Providers

Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA) has good news to share about its Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Scholarship Program for the child care workforce.

### T.E.A.C.H. Now Covers More of Your Costs

T.E.A.C.H. now pays 75% of tuition (90% for family child care providers), recipients pay 10%, and centers pay 15%. In addition, T.E.A.C.H. bonuses are now an additional \$100, and T.E.A.C.H. has increased its release time reimbursement rate from \$10 to \$12.50 per hour.

T.E.A.C.H. scholarships also include:

- Reimbursement for 75% of book expenses
- A \$75 travel stipend per semester
- 15 hours of paid release time per semester
- Access to a scholarship counselor for support and encouragement
- A financial bonus upon completion

### New First Nations Pathway for Tribal Early Childhood Educators

T.E.A.C.H. is also offering a First Nations Pathway that allows eligible students to take culturally relevant courses at a variety of tribal and public schools, including the Uni-



versity of Minnesota-Duluth.

### T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships for School-Age

If you work with children ages 5-12, a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship can help you to strengthen your skills in meeting the unique needs of children in this age group. Use T.E.A.C.H. for courses (online, face-to-face, and hybrid) that cover topics unique to working with school-age children, including child development through the life-cycle, curriculum and program design, administrative and managerial skills, family relationships, and community issues.



There's also a new **School-Age Credential (12 credits)** and a new **Youth Development and Educational Leadership degree**. With T.E.A.C.H., you can pursue credentials, single credit-bearing courses, and associate's or bachelor's degrees.

### For more information

Email: [teach@wisconsinearlychildhood.org](mailto:teach@wisconsinearlychildhood.org)

Call: 800-783-9322, option 3

Visit: [wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/teach](http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/teach)

*T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® WISCONSIN is a licensed program of Child Care Services Association and is funded by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.*





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### Get the Latest YoungStar and Wisconsin Shares News



Did you know it's easy to sign up to receive emails from YoungStar and Wisconsin Shares? Be among the first to get information and updates on news and policy. Sign up today!

#### YoungStar Email Instructions

Sign up to receive YoungStar emails here: [http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/mailling\\_list/signup.htm](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/mailling_list/signup.htm). Supply your organization name, your email address, choose "add me to the list", check YoungStar Information and Updates, and click the submit button.

The screenshot shows the 'Sign Up for YoungStar Information and Updates' form. It includes fields for 'Your Organization', 'Your Email', and 'Re-enter Email'. There are radio buttons for 'Add me to the following list(s)' and 'Delete me from the following list(s)', and a checkbox for 'YoungStar Information and Updates'. A 'Submit this Request' button is at the bottom. The page is dated 'Updated February 10, 2015'.

#### Wisconsin Shares Email Instructions

Sign up to receive Wisconsin Shares emails here <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/listserv/default.htm>. Supply your email address, choose "add me to the list", check the Child Care Updates List, and click the submit button.

### Updated Authorization Notices

Child care authorization notices for parents and providers have recently been updated. Elements of the authorization notices that have changed include:

- Simplification of payment calculation
- Authorization details
- YoungStar information
- Parent and provider responsibilities
- Overpayments, recoupments and sanctions
- Appeal rights

Providers are responsible to inform parents of any additional payments required if there is a gap between the Maximum Weekly Wisconsin Shares Payment and your price.

### Updated URLs for Child Care Systems

Please update your bookmarks to the following Child Care Systems:

- CCPI - <https://ccpi.wisconsin.gov/>
- CSAW - <https://csaw.wisconsin.gov/>
- WISCCRS - <https://wisccrs.wisconsin.gov/>

The systems Gateway page at <https://prd.cares.wisconsin.gov/#> has been updated to include the new URLs.

Please update your favorites/bookmarks. A redirect page will be in place until 7/1/15 to direct web visitors to the new URLs.

### New Family Engagement Training

In an April training meeting in Wausau, YoungStar Technical Consultants received the new Family Engagement training. This training helps ensure that all Technical Consultants are prepared with a variety of tools to assist programs during the transition to the new 2017 YoungStar Family Engagement indicators. This is a Registry-approved, three-hour training and will be widely delivered on a regional basis, beginning in May of 2015, based on provider needs.



For further details on a training provided near you, please contact your local Child Care Resource & Referral Agency, Family Resource Center, or Supporting Families Together Association.

