

THE RESOURCE CONNECTION

Special Edition: YoungStar—September, 2010 Your Regional Child Care Resource & Referral Newsletter



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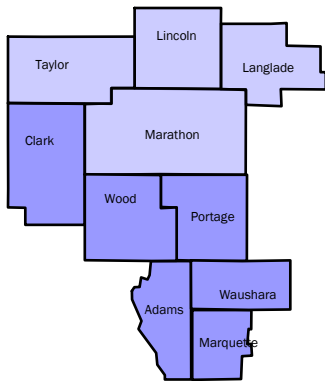
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Special Edition



Start early. Start smart. Start here.

YoungStar is the Department of Children and Families new five-star quality rating and improvement system for child care in Wisconsin. Children who participate in quality early childhood programs get a strong start in education and development, the spring board to future success.

YoungStar will improve child care throughout the state, make it easier for parents to choose the best child care for their kids, and link child care provider quality to payments from the Wisconsin Shares program.

YoungStar sets a five-star rating system for child care providers based on education, learning environment, business practices and the health and well being of children. Through this rating system the state will address several key issues in Wisconsin's child care system. It will:

- Improve the overall quality of child care
- Create a clear, understandable tool for parents to choose quality child care
- Create incentives for providers to improve services, particularly for low-income children
- Establish a connection between child care quality and the rate of Wisconsin Shares payments
- Help prevent fraud in the Wisconsin Shares system

The passing of YoungStar on June 23rd, 2010 allocates \$5.6 million for:

\$3 million for data collection and assessment activities: DCF is required to contract with regional entities throughout the state to collect information on key quality child care indicators: teacher qualifications, director qualifications (if applicable), learning environment and curriculum, professional practices, and health and wellness. DCF is required to report on data collected and preliminary ratings by November 22, 2010.

\$1.5 million for immediate training and technical assistance: To begin with, training and technical assistance will be targeted in 12 counties: ten that have the greatest number of WI Shares providers, and two that have a total population under 17,000.

\$0.5 million for TEACH and REWARD: \$500,000 will enhance existing funding for child care scholarships and stipends through the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood and R.E.W.A.R.D. programs.

\$0.6 million for 3 state positions and administrative costs: DCF will fill 3.0 FTE positions to oversee and implement YoungStar. The funding will also go for information technology costs.

In addition, the committee set aside **\$4.4 million** that DCF can request later for micro-grants for child care providers seeking to make quality improvements, additional training and technical assistance, and other YoungStar expenditures. The Department is required to report back to the Joint Finance Committee with a five-year sustainability plan by November 22, 2010, including tiered reimbursement to providers.

See the Joint Finance motion for more details:

www.wispolitics.com/1006/100623JFCmotion_YoungStar.pdf

(Notice that YoungStar information is on pages 2-4 of the motion.)

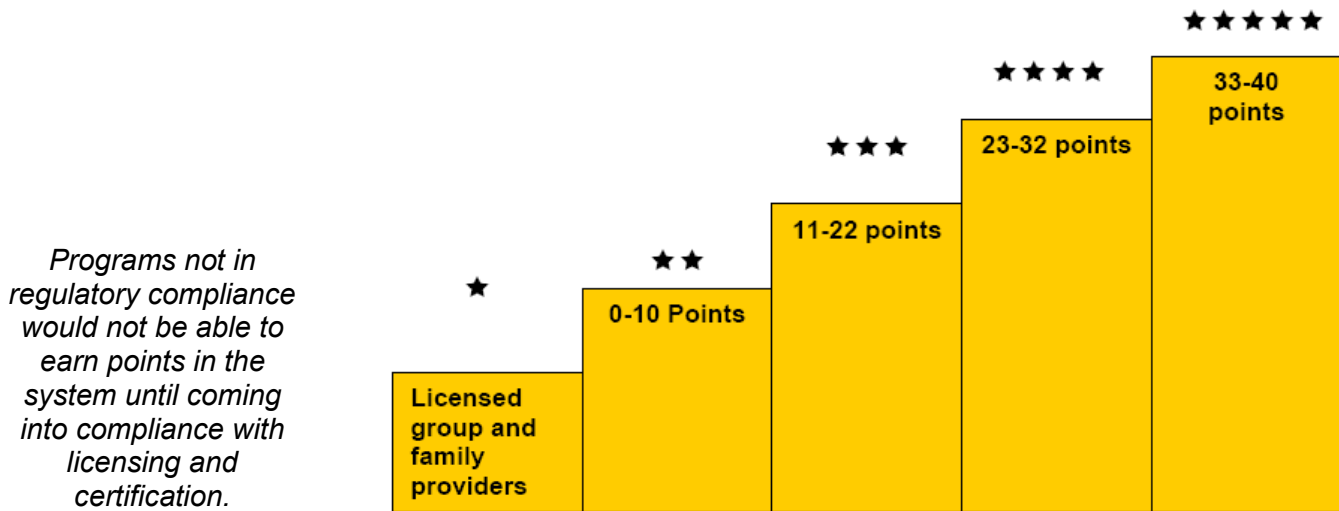
All issues described in the motion were passed by the Joint Finance Committee.)

SPECIAL EDITION

For more information about YoungStar Quality Indicator Points, visit DCF's website at <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar>

YoungStar QRIS Quality Indicator Point Detail as of April 30, 2010

Quality Rating and Improvement System Overall Model



The chart below shows the overall categories and the points possible in each.

Category for Earning Points	Possible Points	
	Family	Group
Family Provider Qualifications	0-14	N/A
Group Teacher Qualifications	N/A	0-9
Group Director Qualifications	N/A	0-6
Learning Environment and Curriculum	0-14	0-13
Professional Practices (business practices, staff benefits, parent/family involvement)	0-7	0-7
Health and Wellness	0-5	0-5
Total	0 to 40	0 to 40



Wisconsin Department of Children & Families

Protecting Children. Strengthening Families. Building Communities.

Department of Children and Families (DCF) Secretary Reggie Bicha announced funding to provide training and technical assistance to improve the quality of care Wisconsin children receive. In June, DCF launched YoungStar, Wisconsin's child care quality rating and improvement system. One of the first steps DCF is taking is to give child care providers the opportunity to improve their programs through training and technical assistance.

A program can receive credit, or optional points, toward their overall YoungStar score, by participating in a number of trainings included in this newsletter.

PROVIDER TRAINING

Trainings marked with a 'star' ★ have been provided as a part of the immediate training opportunities directed by DCF, or may accumulate optional points toward your YoungStar score.



“Making Sound Judgments in Difficult Situations without Being Judgmental”

Presented by: Lilly Irvin-Vitela, Executive Director SFTA

Thursday, September 23rd 6:30-8:30 pm
MSTC, WI Rapids

To register, call CCR&RCW at 800.628.8534
or email ccrcw@tznet.com

Q-Net: Quality Networking for Early Childhood Professionals

Early Literacy Series

Locations: Neillsville School-Head Start **OR** Medford Head Start
Light Meal at 5:30; Training from 6:00 to 8:00 PM

First Session: Thursday, September 9, 2010

Cost: \$5 per session, or \$30 for 7 sessions (Paid in advance)

Pre-registration is required; contact us at 800.628.8534

Future Sessions: 2010: October 14, November 18, December 9

2011: January 13, February 10, March 10, and April (date & location TBD).

For more information regarding the future sessions watch your quarterly, Resource & Referral newsletter, *The Resource Connection*.

Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Training

September 8th—6:00-7:30 PM

CCR&RCW, WI Rapids

Cost: \$15 (Pre-registration is required).

Contact CCR&RCW for more information at 800.628.8534

Child Care Resource & Referral of Central WI YoungStar Trainings ★

Date/Time

Location

Cost

Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (WMELS)	Mondays 9/13 - 10/11 6:00-9:00pm	Christ Lutheran Church, Marshfield	\$30.00 (non-credit)
YoungStar Overview	Tues. 9/14 - 6:30-8:00pm	Family Resource Center, Adams	FREE
Leading the Way Conference • YoungStar Overview	Sat. 9/25 - 2:50-3:50pm	UW-Stevens Point	\$35.00
YoungStar Overview	Mon. 9/27 - 6:30-8:00pm	Little Sprouts Discovery Center, Redgranite	FREE
YoungStar Overview	Mon. 10/4 - 6:30-8:00pm	7 C's Child Care Center, Greenwood	FREE
All Day Conference: Preparing for YoungStar • Rating Scale Overview (ECERS, ITERS, FCCERS) • Child Abuse & Neglect (SCAN-MRT) • YoungStar Overview	Saturday, 10/9 8:00-5:15pm	Mid-State Technical College, Wisconsin Rapids	\$25.00 (includes lunch & materials)
YoungStar Overview	Mon. 10/11 - 6:30-8:00pm	Little Pioneer Childcare Inc, Westfield	FREE
WI Model Early Learning Standards	Fri 11/12 & Sat 11/13 8:30-4:30 both days	TBD, Stevens Point	\$30.00 (non-credit)
All Day Conference: Preparing for YoungStar • Rating Scale Overview (ECERS, ITERS, FCCERS) • Strengthening Families/ Protective Factors • YoungStar Overview	Saturday, 10/23 8:00-5:15pm	Streitel Conference Center, St Josephs Hospital, Marshfield	\$25.00 (includes lunch & materials)
Caring Hands Series • Developing a Child Portfolio	Thurs 11/4 - 6:00-9:00pm	Mid-State Technical College, Wisconsin Rapids	FREE
Caring Hands Series • Ages & Stages Questionnaire	Tues. 11/9 - 6:00-9:00pm	Streitel Conference Center, St Joseph's Hospital, Marshfield	FREE

For more information on the above trainings, contact CCR&RCW at 715.423.4114 or 800.628.8534

PROVIDER TRAINING

Child Care Connection, YoungStar Trainings ★	Date/Time	Location	Cost
YoungStar Overview	8/19: 6:30-8:30pm	NTC-Wausau	Free
Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (WMELS)	10/8: 5-9:00pm 10/9: 8-4:00pm	NTC-Wausau	\$120.60 (1 college credit, tuition reimbursement available)
Early Childhood Fall Kick-Off • Child Abuse & Neglect • Rating Scale Overview (ECERS, ITERS, FCCERS) • Strengthening Families / Protective Factors	Saturday, 10/23/10 8:00-4:00pm	NTC-Wausau, Health Science Building	\$25.00 (includes materials and lunch)
Early Childhood Fall Kick-Off (Hmong) • YoungStar Overview • Rating Scale Overview (ECERS, ITERS, FCCERS)	Saturday, 10/23/10 8:00-4:00pm	NTC-Wausau, Health Science Building	\$10.00 (includes materials and lunch)
Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)	11/1/10 6:00-8:30pm	Family Resource Center, Wausau	\$10.00 (includes materials & snacks)
Child Portfolio	11/4/10 6:00-9:00pm	NTC-Wausau, Health Science Building (ITV to Antigo & Medford)	\$10.00 (includes materials & snacks)

For more information on the above trainings, contact CCC at 715.539.9779 or 800.628.8534

★ **Pyramid Model—SEFEL**
Promoting Social and Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children


Come to our informational session to learn more about the SEFEL program and the series of training:

Tuesday, September 21st
6:00-8:00 PM
At AC Kiefer, Wausau

To register, contact CCRCW at 800.628.8534

A series of Pyramid Model training will be offered from 6:00-9:00 PM on the following dates:
October 5th, 12th & 19th
November 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd
At AC Kiefer, in Wausau.

More info will be given at the September 21st Informational Session.



★ **Early Care and Education Wellness Training**

CCRCW and CCC are excited to be a part of a statewide initiative that is focused on early childhood obesity and physical activity.

We look forward to bringing you the basic knowledge and skills to facilitate physical activity for children in early care and education programs.

The session includes environment planning, understanding developmentally appropriate practices in physical activity, organization of classroom area, physical activity components, movement education components, knowledge of available assessment tools and more.

Watch your mail!

Mid-State Technical College Courses for YoungStar ★	Campus	Time	Tuition
Best Practices for Children & Families in EC Programs – Administrator Credential Course #5 (3 credits)	Marshfield	9/7-11/30 4-8:00pm	\$337.90
Health, Safety & Nutrition - accelerated (3 credits)	Marshfield	9/7-10/26 6-9:00pm	\$337.90
Children with Differing Abilities - accelerated (3 credits)	Marshfield	11/1-12/20 6-9:00pm	\$337.90
Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (1 credit)	Marshfield	9/28-11/2 6-9:00pm	\$115.30
Preschool Capstone – accelerated (3 credits)	WI Rapids	9/9-12/16 6-9:00pm	\$337.90
Health, Safety & Nutrition - accelerated (3 credits)	WI Rapids	9/13-10/25 5:45-9:15pm	\$337.90
Curriculum Planning - accelerated (3 credits)	WI Rapids	11/1-12/20 6-9:00pm	\$337.90
Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (1 credit)	WI Rapids	9/27-11/1 6-9:00pm	\$115.30

For more information about these courses, or to register, please contact Mid-State Technical College at 888.575.MSTC (6782)

Supporting Families Together Association

On June 23rd 2010, the Wisconsin's Joint Committee on Finance made a unanimous, bi-partisan 16-0 decision to support a child care quality improvement rating system. This system titled YoungStar is one of the most progressive, child and family friendly decisions that WI lawmakers have made in recent history.

YoungStar aims to systematically build, support, and monitor the quality of regulated child care in Wisconsin and make information about the quality of care available to parents. While the proposal is clear that all programs receiving public subsidy to care for children must participate in the quality rating and improvement system, opportunities for strengthening programs also exist on a voluntary basis for those child care businesses that do not have children/families receiving subsidy.

Wisconsin taxpayers also have reason to celebrate. This is an effort that is a combination of family and child friendly policy and smart investment and good stewardship of public dollars to assure the quality of state funded child care.

Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA) and Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) celebrate this ground breaking decision to invest in a system that supports children and families and those who serve them. Children in Wisconsin deserve to be served by the most competent, nurturing care and education providers possible and parents deserve the peace of mind afforded by a rating informed decision.

So, what does this mean for early care and education professionals?

Simply put, it means support in growing and sustaining high quality child care programs. SFTA and CCR&Rs realize that positive attitude, behavior, and practice change requires a deeper level of professional development best accomplished through coaching and technical assistance as well as training. Research about improving quality early care and education is clear. In order for a quality improvement rating system to be effective it must not simply assess quality, there must also be a mechanism to intentionally build quality through research informed strategies. Intensive on-site, data-driven, individualized, targeted technical assistance/coaching that result in sustainable increases in quality include:

- delivery of technical assistance services in a professional manner by highly skilled, experienced, and collaborative professionals in a way that is the “right dose at the right time for the right duration”
- previously and currently funded efforts from DCF to SFTA and CCR&Rs underscore the importance of this approach to achieve meaningful gains in the quality indicators that most impact children’s experiences and business practices
- an infusion of technical resources and materials to implement a quality improvement action plan
- development of a balanced quality improvement action plan that targets a sufficient number of indicators to create a “tipping point” to improve the quality in a early care and education setting but that is not so ambitious that family and group centers believe that change is unachievable
- builds linkages to additional resources and professional supports

For more information about YoungStar go to <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/details.htm> or call your local Child Care Resource and Referral agency to learn what you can do to gear up for quality.



Child Care Resource & Referral of Central Wisconsin:
Board of Directors

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■ Kelly Allen ■ Lenna Hamilton ■ Steve Walczak ■ Marianne Schock ■ Vicki Lobermeier

MISSION: *To be the key resource of comprehensive services to enhance quality child care in Central Wisconsin.*

"With YoungStar, we have taken an important step toward creating the kind of first-class child care system Wisconsin's children deserve. By helping child care providers improve their programs, we help children develop and grow, improving their future and that of our state."

Department of Children & Families, Secretary Bicha

To learn more about YoungStar, visit

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

As a part of the immediate training and technical assistance, we'll have an opportunity to provide intense, on-site consultation in 20 early childhood classrooms/environments using the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS). Those programs/environments, located in Marathon and Wood Counties, will be chosen based upon the highest number of WI Shares enrollments, in both family and group centers. Watch your mail for an invitation to apply for this exciting opportunity.

Child Care Connection: **Board of Directors**

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MISSION: *To respond to needs and deliver services that improve and support a quality child care system.*

Xav tau kev pab pes/txhais daim ntauw xovxwm
no thov hu tuaj rau kao Lai Xiong 715-539-9779
Hhub Mondays - 9:30 txog 3:30pm.



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