



Issue #27

July, August, September 2016



### Our Mission

To enhance and support a quality early childhood education system by providing resource and referral services to families, child care programs, and communities.

### Wisconsin Rapids Office

1107 West Grand Avenue  
Wisconsin Rapids | WI 54495

#### office hours:

8:30am - 4:30pm

715-423-4114

fax: 715-423-2444

### Wausau Office

1500 Merrill Avenue, Suite 201  
Wausau | WI 54401

#### office hours:

9:00am - 5:00pm

715-301-1800

fax: 715-301-1804

Both Childcaring locations accommodate office hours by appointment

1.800.628.8534

[www.childcaring.org](http://www.childcaring.org)

[info@childcaring.org](mailto:info@childcaring.org)



# The Resource Connection

## New Platform for Child Care Referrals at Childcaring



Childcaring is excited to share our new on-line platform for regulated child care referrals! The new child care search is much more user-friendly and you receive a unique listing of regulated child care providers within minutes of inputting your information. In the past, the search required entering information on various screens and on occasion users would be locked out of their search account, not any more. Simply fill out a short form on one screen and press the “get results” button. We recently had a parent visit the Childcaring office and tell us about

how relieved she was to use the easier system. This resource is FREE and available now, on our website.

Websites, Facebook, Twitter and other social media are fast becoming great places to find just about any kind of information. In a day and age where information is so readily available, how do you know that what you’re reading and hearing about is legitimate? Childcaring helps to educate families and the community about legally operating, regulated (state licensed or county certified) child care. Regulations set standards for adequate care to protect children’s health, safety and well-being.

The new platform makes searching for regulated child care easier. Unregulated, illegally operating child care is not monitored and can even be dangerous to the health and safety of young children. Childcaring is committed to ensuring that every child has access to high quality early care and education. We provide the tools, information and resources to help families select a quality child care arrangement. This information, along with your visit and evaluation of programs, are the keys to making good choices about child care. We need to remember that child care isn’t just a place to drop off your children, it’s a critical early learning environment which helps to enhance brain development and shape the future of our society.

# YOUNGSTAR CORNER

**Proposed for 2017! YS Evaluation Criteria D.1.1 Program supports healthy nutrition and/or physical activity policies and practices.** This point will be required for 3, 4, and 5 Stars and will include new health/activity self-assessment and quality improvement plan. More specific information will be shared as soon as this proposed point is finalized.

## YoungStar is Changing to Less Frequent Ratings!

Beginning in 2017, programs participating in YoungStar will only need to be rated every two years. This will give programs more time to improve their quality between ratings. All currently participating program sites will be divided between even year and odd year rating groups. Programs will be divided through a computer generated system that will take a variety of factors into consideration. Due to the challenge of dividing more than 4,000 programs, the process will be completely random, and programs will not be able to choose (or change) which rating group they are placed in.

Although ratings will not be required every year, programs are encouraged to receive free YoungStar support services during their "off" rating years. Programs can receive just technical consultation and a micro-grant, just a rating, or all three services.

For more information visit: <http://www.childcaring.org/provider-quality.html> (click + YoungStar)

## Childcaring Welcomes Chelsey Thill as Quality Improvement Specialist

Hello, my name is Chelsey Thill. I am the new Quality Improvement Specialist in the Wausau office. My primary experiences in the field of early education have been within the classroom as a teacher with an emphasis on mentoring others in the field. I worked my way through college as an assistant teacher in a local group childcare center before graduating with a degree in Elementary Education (EC-MC). I took a position working for Head Start in a bilingual classroom, then accepted a position with the community-based Baraboo Early Learning Cooperative as a 4K public school teacher partnering with local childcare centers. In 2014, I was selected to be a Master Teacher with the innovative PreK 4 SA program of San Antonio, TX. I am glad to bring my passion, excitement, knowledge, and hands-on skills back to my home state to help raise the quality of education for children statewide. I enjoy reading, researching medieval history, supporting local blues and folk musicians, writing poetry, getting messy with pottery, camping with my friends and enjoying time with my family "Up North."



# Childcaring Staff

- Kelly Borchardt** ~ Executive Director
- Micki Krueger** ~ Assistant Director
- Linda Francis** ~ Office & Financial Manager
- Kristine Kettleton** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist
- Mary Olson** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist
- Susie Sandow** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist
- Lori Shafranski** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist
- Carrie Steinke** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist
- Chelsey Thill** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist
- Kao L. Xiong** ~ Quality Improvement Specialist/Bi-Lingual
- Gayle Schiszik** ~ Training Coordinator/Certifier/Pre-licensing Consultant
- Rachele Cherek** ~ Program Coordinator
- Tracy Verjinsky** ~ Program Coordinator
- Jessica Frick** ~ Resource & Referral Specialist
- Shelley Weiler** ~ Referral & Communication Specialist
- Sarah Agena** ~ Child Physical Activity & Nutrition Consultant/Flexible Nutrition Solutions, LLC (Independent Contractor)

## Provider Support / Advocate Groups

**Adams, Clark, Langlade, Marathon & Marquette County:**  
Contact Childcaring if interested in developing an advocate group at 800.628.8534

**Portage County:**  
Portage County Child Care Association  
Joan Garski at 715.341.5873

Portage County Leaders  
RoxAnne Forrest at 715.342.2999

**Lincoln County:** Contact  
Dolly Tanck at 715.536.7581

**Marathon County:** Storyteller Network  
Support Group for Asian Providers  
Maichao Lor at 715.432.1958

**Taylor County:** Meet the 3rd Monday of month  
For more information, call Kelly Emmerich at 715.748.6192

**Wausau County:**  
Contact Krista Sobieski at 920.566.0545

**Wood County:**  
Marshfield Area Child Care Association  
Krisann Mauritz at 715.387.2218

Wisconsin Rapids Child Care Advocates Council  
Jamie Lane 715.323.2546

# YoungStar Transition 2016

Please take a moment to read this message from the Department of Children and Families (DCF):

"In May 2015, the Department of Children and Families issued a Request for Proposal for the administration of the YoungStar Quality Rating and Improvement System.

Multiple bidders responded and the Department has selected Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA) to administer all YoungStar services beginning July 1, 2016. SFTA is Wisconsin's statewide member association for organizations and individuals committed to making every early childhood a great one. For more information about SFTA, visit their YoungStar webpage. We are actively working to make this transition for YoungStar participating child care providers as smooth as possible. We are in the process of preparing more detailed information to be made available to providers and stakeholders in the near future. In all counties except Milwaukee, technical assistance services will continue to be provided by local Child Care Resource and Referral offices, just as they are now. Beginning July 1, formal rating and micro-grant services for all counties will be completed by SFTA.

In Milwaukee County, all YoungStar technical consultation services will be delivered by 4C For Children beginning July 1, 2016. A more targeted communication effort to child care providers will occur as additional plans for transitioning technical assistance services from Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA) to 4-C For Children are finalized.

Information will be shared with child care providers statewide via the YoungStar listserv, the YoungStar website and through our stakeholder groups. Additional outreach to providers may take place as needed.

The YoungStar transition webpage will be updated with further information as it is available." - *Your YoungStar Team*

Please visit the YoungStar Transition page for the most up-to-date information.

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



## 2016 Once Upon a Book Drive

Going On Now Until August 31



*A "thank you" from a child care provider who received Once Upon a Book Drive books in 2015.*



In 2 years running, this book drive has collected over 10,700 books for Wisconsin children in need. Last year Childcaring collected over 600 books locally for the cause. Once Upon a Book Drive is an annual effort on behalf of Supporting Families Together (SFTA), SFTA members, and community partners, to collect and distribute quality children's books to child care programs and families in need across Wisconsin. The drive runs annually from June 15th through August 31st. During the drive we accept new or gently used books that contain educational, appropriate content for children from ages 0 to 12. If you are considering a donation please keep in mind that while distributing books collected in previous years we saw a need for more 0-3 age books, so we are emphasizing donations of infant and toddler-aged books in coming years.

Locally, you can drop books off at the Wisconsin Rapids and Wausau Childcaring offices, Portage County Public Library in Stevens Point, Lester Public Library of Vesper, T.B. Scott Library in Merrill or visit the SFTA website for a book drop off site near you: <http://supportingfamilies together.org/once-upon-a-book-drive/>



# Training Opportunities

Visit our online training calendar for the most up-to-date training opportunities.

## Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention

Training in identification, prevention and the grave effects of SBS.

- Thursday, July 21 (10:30am-12:00pm)  
Childcaring, Wisconsin Rapids  
\$10/ Register by Thursday, July 14

## Family Engagement: Partnering with Families for Children's Success

This 3 hour course will explore best practices in family engagement, challenges and barriers to connecting with families and will look at concrete strategies to improve your ability to develop relationships with families and increase their engagement.

- Wednesday, August 24 (6:00pm-9:00pm)  
United Way of Marathon County, Wausau  
\$15/ Register by Wednesday, August 17

## Pyramid Model for Social and Emotional Competence

Model for supporting social competence and preventing challenging behavior in young children birth to age 5.

(Must attend all sessions)

- Monday, September 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24  
(6:00pm-9:00pm)  
Wednesday, October 26 (6:00pm-9:00pm)  
UW Extension-Lincoln County, Merrill  
\$50/ Register by Monday, September 5

## CPR with AED

- Thursday, September 15 (6:00pm-9:00pm)  
Childcaring, Wausau  
\$48.50/ Register by Thursday, September 8
- Thursday, October 20 (6:00pm-9:00pm)  
Childcaring, Wausau  
\$48.50/ Register by Thursday, October 13
- Thursday, November 10 (6:00pm-9:00pm)  
Childcaring, Wausau  
\$48.50/ Register by Thursday, November 3

## Do you know someone interested in opening a child care program?

Regulation Info Session – with optional SIDS Training  
Thursday, September 15 at 6:00 p.m.  
Langlade County Department of Social Services  
1225 Langlade Road, Antigo, WI 54409  
Funded by: United Way of Langlade County  
Watch for more details or call Childcaring.

## Save the Date

Leading the Way  
"Building Healthy Foundations"

Saturday, October 8, 2016  
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

## Presented in Hmong ~

### Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care & Art From the Heart

- Saturday, September 17  
NorthCentral Technical College, Wausau  
Register by Friday, September 9  
Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care (9:00am-12:00pm)

Because mothers need ongoing support from child care providers to provide breast milk for their babies, child care programs are becoming breastfeeding friendly.

- Art from the Heart: Fostering the Creative Process in Children (12:30pm-3:30pm)

Included within this training are hands on opportunities to learn how to incorporate art materials and concepts into your program and support children's experiences with art. Participants will explore the relationship of art within the Environment Rating Scales.

Registration Fees:

- Full Conference (lunch included) \$30  
Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care (excluding lunch) \$15  
Art from the Heart: Fostering the Creative Process in Children (excluding lunch) \$15

### Art from the Heart: Fostering the Creative Process in Children

Included within this training are hands on opportunities to learn how to incorporate art materials and concepts into your program and support children's experiences with art. Participants will explore the relationship of art within the Environment Rating Scales.

- Thursday, September 22 (5:30pm-8:30pm)  
Rome Town Hall, Nekoosa  
\$15/ Register by Thursday, September 15
- Monday, October 31 (6:00pm-9:00pm)  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Stevens Point  
\$15/ Register by Monday, October 24  
Portage County Child Care Association Members are free

### (WMELS) Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards

A unique opportunity to understand and implement the WMELS into your early childhood setting.

(Must attend both sessions)

- Friday, October 7 & 21 (8:00am-4:00pm)  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Stevens Point  
\$40/ Register by Friday, August 30

### Supporting Language and Early Literacy

Learn about providing effective "read alouds" and evidence-based approaches to support language and early literacy.

- Monday, October 3 (6:00pm-9:00pm)  
Childcaring, Wisconsin Rapids  
\$15/ Register by Monday, September 26
- Thursday, November 3 (6:00pm-9:00pm)  
UW Extension-Langlade County, Antigo  
\$15/ Register by Thursday, October 27

# Congratulations!

**Congratulations to these child care providers for recently completing the Child Physical Activity and Nutrition Program:**

**Hometown Children's Center**

**Little Hands Learning Center**

**Little Blessings Learning Center**

**Central Clark County Community Child Care Center**

**Country Tots Child Development Center**

**Rome Child Care Center LLC**

During the past several months with the guidance from a health consultant these facilities worked on nutrition and physical activity goals that they found important to their individual facilities. For more information or to participate in the CPAN program at no cost contact Sarah Avena at [sarah@childcaring.org](mailto:sarah@childcaring.org) or call 1-800-628-8534.



*Congratulations Kao Xiong On Earning Your Linguistic Endorsement*

Linguistic Endorsement Recipients (Left to right)

Kao Xiong, Lia Yang, Paola Nuñez-Garcia, Romilia Schlueter, Rosie Hoeffner, & Sherri Underwood. (Not pictured: Anna Ramirez)

After completing a written and oral exam with Language Testing International (LTI), Childcaring's Quality Improvement Specialist/Bi-Lingual, Kao Xiong (pictured) earned her linguistic endorsement at the April 2016 Professional Development Approval System (PDAS) Summit for the The Registry. Linguistic endorsement recipients are doing some important work in supporting equitable access to services, both for child care providers and families.



## What is Child Find?

Child Find is a continuous process of public awareness activities and screening designed to "find" children who may have a delay in development or a disability. The Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires all states to have a comprehensive Child Find System that ensures that all children (Birth to 21) who are in need of early intervention or special education services are identified, located and evaluated.

Developmental screening with validated tools provides families and professionals with information about how a child's development compares with other children of the same age. Screening increases rates of early identification of children with developmental delays and disabilities. Early identification allows for timely referral to appropriate supports and services so that all children can reach their full developmental potential.

The YoungStar Inclusion web pages provide helpful tips and resources for child care providers and families.

Visit: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/eci/default.htm>



## Provider Appreciation Day Surprises & Thank You's



To celebrate child care provider appreciation day on Friday, May 6, Childcaring coordinated a drawing to include the names of every regulated child care provider in our 10 county service area. **Congratulations to these Provider Appreciation Day Drawing Winners: Schools Out Club-Edgar, Great Escape- Roosevelt School, Wausau Child Care-Franklin Before & After, and Tong Vang.** Winners received a Visa gift card.

Childcaring also held a Facebook contest where anyone who commented with a thank you to child care providers or, if they are a child care provider, commented about what they enjoy the most about providing child care was entered in the drawing for a chance to win a Visa gift card. Christy Poffinbarger was the drawing winner. "Like" the Childcaring Facebook page for early care resources and upcoming fun contests ☺.

**Also, thank you to these participating Dairy Queen** locations who provided a free Dilly bar or small cone to treat child care providers on Provider Appreciation Day:

- Dairy Queen Store (551 E Grand Ave, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494-4644)
- DQ Grill & Chill Restaurant (803 N Central Ave, Marshfield, WI 54449-2122)
- Dairy Queen Store (1600 S Roddis Ave, Marshfield, WI 54449-4905)
- DQ Grill & Chill Restaurant (511 N 4th St, Tomahawk, WI 54487-1353)
- Dairy Queen Ltd Brazier (1938 Grand Ave, Wausau, WI 54403-6870)
- DQ Grill & Chill Restaurant (W7740 State Road 21 and 73, Wautoma, WI 54982-7704)
- DQ Grill & Chill Restaurant (5398 Highway 10 E, Stevens Point, WI 54481)
- Dairy Queen Store (905 N Center St, Merrill, WI 54452-1245)

The 2016 Small Change Makes a BIG Difference Teach-a-Thon is at a close and we are proud to announce that it was our most successful Teach-a-Thon to date! The goal of the Teach-a-Thon is to train as many Wisconsin adults as possible during the month of April, in child abuse and neglect prevention. Throughout April, Childcaring offered 10 trainings and trained 221 adults. This year Supporting Families Together Association and participating member agencies trained nearly 2,700 Wisconsin adults in child abuse and neglect prevention-- several hundred over our goal of 2,000.

A huge thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's Teach-a-Thon, not to mention everyone who participated in a training. We could not make a positive difference in the lives of Wisconsin children and families without you. Mark your calendars for the April 2017 Small Change Makes a BIG Difference Teach-a-Thon, when we will try to surpass this year's training numbers.

Snapshots from the **2016 Early Childhood Conference**



Held June 4, 2016 - NTC-Wausau Campus, Wausau

Break Out Sessions Included: "And How are the Children?" presented by: Linda DeMoe; Art from the Heart, presented by: Childcaring, Mary Olson; Discovering Science presented for Hmong-speaking providers, presented by Childcaring, Kao L. Xiong



## Start with your GOAL, then find your activities and adapt if necessary!

Start with your goal and then go searching for activities!

WMELS C.EL.4 Uses writing to represent thoughts or ideas leads into the Wisconsin Academic Standard CCSS ELA W.K.2 Uses a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

Recently I was at the Wisconsin Reading conference and heard Matt Glover; early childhood educator, presenter and author talk about having children create "list books." This had never dawned on me but made sense! Many of the books we read to young children are list books so by starting to teach bookmaking with list books allows them to write in a genre they are familiar with but does not require them to organize by beginning, middle and end (which is a more difficult skill.) Discuss with the child a topic (s)he would like to write about and guide them to draw on each page more information about the topic.



Matt Glover also suggests that it helps to show the children published books, a book you have written and books written by other children their age. I wrote about Purses and Abel wrote about dinosaurs (they have teeth and come out in the day.) Both are wordless books but can be read.



Submitted by: Beth Tepper, CESA 9



**Save the Date:**  
**Leading the Way**  
**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
**for Early Childhood Educators**  
**"Building Healthy Foundations"**  
**Saturday, October 8**  
**University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point**  
More conference details coming soon ...

## 2015 Childcaring Annual Report Available Online

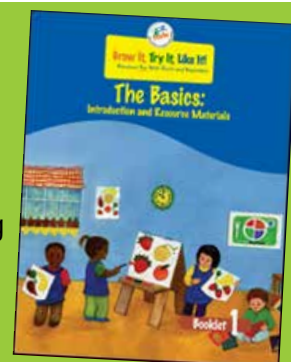
The 2015 annual report available online details the many early care and education services that Childcaring provides and promotes. Some of the 2015 information highlighted in the report includes:

- 90 Childcaring trainings provided
- 250 community meetings attended by Childcaring staff
- 303 out of 423 regulated child care providers participated in Young Star
- 758 families were served through referrals
- 22 child care programs, reaching 549 children ages 2-5, completed the CPAN program

## Healthy Choices

Order your Grow It, Try It, Like It! Nutrition Education Kit Featuring MyPlate today. This educational kit is a garden-themed nutrition education kit for child care center staff that introduces children to fruits and vegetables. The kit includes seven booklets featuring fruits and vegetables with fun activities through the imaginary garden at Tasty Acres Farm! It also has a CD-ROM with Supplemental Information and a DVD with Cool Puppy Pup's Picnic and Lunch Parties. Each set of lessons contains: hands-on activities, planting

activities, and nutrition education activities that introduce MyPlate. Use the kit to promote learning at home with fun parent/child activities and family-sized recipes that give tips for cooking with children. Order your kit today at [www.fns.usda.gov/tn/grow-it-try-it-it](http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/grow-it-try-it-it).



## Wisconsin Rapids Office

1107 West Grand Avenue | Wisconsin Rapids | WI 54495

## Wausau Office

1500 Merrill Avenue, Suite 201 | Wausau | WI 54401



Childcaring is supported in part by:



Xav tau kev pab pes/txhais daim ntawv xovxwm  
no thov hu tuaj rau  
Kao Lai Xiong 715-301-1800  
Hnub Mondays - 9:30 txog 3:30pm.

### DATES CLOSED

Independence Day – July 4<sup>th</sup>

Staff Retreat Day – August 9<sup>th</sup>

Labor Day – September 5<sup>th</sup>

## Vision

For all Central Wisconsin children to benefit from the best child care possible.

## 2016 Childcaring Board of Directors

Brad Gast, President

Jane Brandt, Vice President

Nick Faber, Treasurer

Donna Ginzi

Sarah Grosshuesch

Julie Rodger

Tammy Schreiber

Mandy Stanley

## Childcaring Board Member Spotlight:



My name is Jane Brandt. I currently serve as the board Vice President. Prior to the merging of Child Care Connection and Child Care Resource and Referral of Central Wisconsin to Childcaring (much easier to say and write), I served on the CCRRCW board for 10 years and held offices of Secretary, Vice President and President.

I am the Assistant Director at the Child Care Center of Saint Joseph's Hospital and Marshfield Clinic. I also oversee the Kiddie Kaboose Program, a comprehensive teen parent child care program housed within our center.

I have six children ranging in age from 17 years to 31 years and three grandchildren. The work I do keeps me deeply connected to Childcaring and the important services they provide to our families, providers and our communities.