

Issue #42
April, May, June 2020



850 Hwy. 153, Ste F
Mosinee | WI 54455

(Across from Central WI Airport,
Baymen Professional Building)

715.841.9490

1.800.628.8534

www.childcaring.org

info@childcaring.org



Office hours:

8:30am - 4:30pm

Additional office hours
available by appointment.

Office is temporarily closed to the public;
Childcaring staff is available by phone
and email.

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.

The Resource Connection

**Early Childhood Professionals Deserve a
Big "THANK YOU" for their Dedication,
Commitment, and Compassion!**

**"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the
news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers.
You will always find people who are helping.' " – Fred Rogers**



This is a difficult time. Childcaring would like to thank all the helpers doing their best to assist in any way they can. We are providing updates as soon as we get them. Please stay in touch with us: like our Facebook page; sign up for an email list serve; update your program information by calling our office or updating your individual link. Please reach out to Childcaring staff by email or telephone if you need early care assistance.

Celebrate Provider Appreciation Day May 8

Although Provider Appreciation Day is recognized every year in May, it is important that we show our appreciation year-round for individuals who serve an important role in providing high-quality child care.

- Show support for individuals who care for young children, and for programs that offer them specialized training in early childhood education and care.
- Create a partnership with a local early childhood program by offering your time, expertise, resources and/or financial support.
- Make your vote count on behalf of young children and their families.
- Visit the Childcaring website and FB page to keep up-to-date on local early care and education issues and trends.

FAMILIES: Nominate a Regulated Child Care Provider

Complete the "Provider Appreciation Survey," found on FB or the Childcaring website, for a chance to win a gift card for both you and the regulated child care provider you nominate. Submit the survey by 5/7/20.

Only families and child care providers in our service delivery area are eligible to win.

In addition, Childcaring will randomly draw the name of a regulated child care provider in our service area, on May 8th. The winner will receive a gift card. Their name will be announced on Facebook and they will be contacted by phone.

The future of our community depends on what we do for all our children today.

Serving: Adams | Clark | Langlade | Lincoln | Marathon | Marquette | Portage | Taylor | Waushara | and Wood Counties

YOUNGSTAR CORNER

YoungStar Makes Changes for 2021/2022

Have you heard? YoungStar is going lean with a new, simplified rating structure! Beginning in 2021, YoungStar will be making a number of updates, including eliminating optional points required for higher ratings, and adopting the newly revised Environment Rating Scales. These changes will better foster child development while streamlining the rating process for providers.

Note: The changes will affect programs that apply to YoungStar on or after January 1, 2021 or whose anniversary date is in 2021 or 2022. For more information please visit: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers/rating-criteria>

COVID-19

Stay Connected to Childcaring

The health and safety of children, early childhood professionals, families, staff, and the community is our first priority. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, as of Wednesday, March 18, the Childcaring office is open via appointment only. Childcaring staff are available, during normal business hours, by phone and email.

Here is how you can stay connected with us:

Like our Childcaring Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/ChildcaringInc.

Bookmark our website to your device:
www.childcaring.org

COVID-19 Updates and Resources:
<https://childcaring.org/beta/additionalresourcesforproviders/>

Join our list serves for updates and emergency information:
<https://childcaring.org/beta/newsletters/>

Email us your most current email address and phone numbers: info@childcaring.org

Check our training calendar for cancellations:
<http://www.localendar.com/public/Childcaring>

Stay connected with Childcaring and feel free to call or email us with any questions you may have.

Childcaring Staff

Kelly Borchardt ~ Executive Director

Micki Krueger ~ Assistant Director

Linda Francis ~ Financial Manager

Audrey Bittner ~ Early Childhood Consultant/Trainer

Kristine Joyce ~ Early Childhood Consultant/Trainer

Mary Olson ~ Early Childhood Consultant/Trainer

Andrea Mueller ~ Early Childhood Consultant/Trainer

Lori Shafranski ~ Early Childhood Consultant/Trainer

Carrie Steinke ~ Early Childhood Consultant/Trainer

Kao L. Xiong ~ Early Childhood Consultant/
Trainer - Bilingual

Gayle Schiszik ~ Certifier/Pre-licensing Consultant

Rachele Johnson ~ Training/Program Coordinator

Tracy Verjinsky ~ Program Coordinator

Shelley Nelson ~ Referral & Communication Specialist

Tara Biebl ~ Resource & Referral Specialist

Provider Support / Advocate Groups

Adams, Clark, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marquette & Waushara 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 715.346.4370

Taylor County: Meet the 3rd Monday of month
For more information, call Kelly Emmerich at 715.465.0993

Wood County:

Marshfield Area Child Care Association
Krisann Mauritz at 715.387.2218

Wisconsin Rapids Child Care Advocates Council
Jamie Lane 715.323.2546

Training Opportunities

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

Register Online for Childcaring Trainings

To register, please visit www.the-registry.org, click on Statewide Trainings and type the name of the training in the Keywords search.

If you're already a Registry Member, simply sign-in and proceed with the payment process. If you're not a Registry Member, create a free account to register. If you need other payment options, please call our office.

Some trainings are not eligible for online registration and will be noted. Contact Childcaring to register.

Keep Your Registry Information Updated: You need to have a current and unique email address listed. If you participate in an online training, the email address you list will receive the training information sent by the instructor. Two or more people cannot have the same email address listed.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, many trainings and events have been canceled and facilities closed. Childcaring is working to develop online training options. For the most up-to-date list of Childcaring trainings please visit: <http://www.localendar.com/public/Childcaring>

Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention

This training will provide participants with an in-depth review on the identification, prevention and grave effects of SBS.

- **Thursday, May 21 (10:30am-12:00pm)**
Childcaring, Mosinee
\$15 / Register by Thursday, May 14
- **Thursday, July 16 (10:30am-12:00pm)**
Wood County River Block Building, Wisconsin Rapids
\$15 / Register by Thursday, July 9

CPR with AED – I

The training will provide participants with Infant, Child, & Adult CPR and automated external defibrillator training

- **Wednesday, May 27**
Childcaring, Mosinee
6:00pm-9:00pm
\$45 / Book: \$5

First Aid

The training will prepare participants to provide care and administer first aid in times of crisis.

- **Saturday, June 13**
Childcaring, Mosinee
9:00am-12:00pm
\$35

Free Registry Membership or Renewal Use code PDG2020

Individuals must have current employment at a regulated child care program in Wisconsin entered on their Registry account to qualify. This coupon will be awarded from April 1, 2020, until December 31, 2020, or as funding allows. The Registry will share updates on use of the coupon through their website and Facebook account.

Paid for with PDG funding

Suggestions to keep your child(ren) busy!

1. Start your own Coloring Book, adding a picture each day. Try one of something on the first day, two of something on the second day, etc. They could draw things like flowers, balloons, colored shapes, get creative!
2. Cut items out of a magazine or catalog (oriental trading catalog is great!) and glue them on a large oval for an Easter Egg collage.
3. Play a different card game each day (Old Maid, Fish, War etc.)
4. Play a Memory game (lots of different versions!)
5. Make a list for an outdoor scavenger hunt, then go find them. Ideas could include things like a pinecone, spring flower, robin, seasonal decorations etc.
6. Paint on the driveway with a paint brush and water.
7. Draw outside with sidewalk chalk. Trace your body or draw hopscotch then play!
8. Shoot baskets with a basketball at the closest park.
9. Visit a different, new playground each nice day.
10. Make a batch of playdough or other goop recipe then have fun with it!
11. Take a "themed" walk each day: look for things that are round, square, triangle, certain colors, house decorations, read street numbers etc.
12. Make a fort inside with chairs, blankets etc. Read to your stuffed animal inside it.
13. Make an obstacle course outside: use hula hoops to move through, jump over large sticks, pick up and put down balls etc. Get creative!
14. Work on letter sounds, then make an alphabet book: cut out words from newspapers or magazines beginning with A and ending with Z.
15. Sort clothes that are too small and toys you no longer play with and donate them
16. Bake cookies, corn bread etc.
17. READ READ READ, at least 20 minutes per day!
18. Find GoNoodle on YouTube TV or on the computer and move to some fun songs!
19. Have a silly hair day. Do each other's hair with barrettes, rubber bands etc. Find a friend or family member to 'play' with.
20. Buy some seeds and plant them. Add a 'popsicle' stick and chart their growth weekly. **HAVE FUN!**



The Preschool Development Grant - Birth to Five (PDG B-5)

The state of Wisconsin received a \$10 million grant from the federal government to improve its early childhood education system. The money will help the state collect better information about its early care and education system. **The Preschool Development Grant - Birth to Five (PDG B-5)** is a one-year federal grant which allows Wisconsin to complete a needs assessment and a strategic plan to improve our early care system. As part of its study, state officials will examine ways for Wisconsin to find and keep early care and education workers and then give them the support they need.

Through this work, our vision is that by 2023, **all Wisconsin families will have access to high-quality, affordable, local early care and education opportunities.** By working together – intentionally aligning and improving how we support and serve our youngest children and families – we will help every child succeed and help Wisconsin thrive.

Updates on Wisconsin's PDG activity

There is an important update regarding the public listening sessions that were scheduled around the state. These sessions will not be held in-person as scheduled. Instead, these sessions will be hosted in alternative formats so that they can continue to listen to your thoughts and feedback on early care and education.

There will be a variety of options to choose from – telephone call-in lines, webinar and video conferences, and social media events! These sessions may be held on a different date or time than originally scheduled, and some events may be held in-person at a future date. Be sure to check the PDG website: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/pdg> for updates.



The Preschool Development Grant
WISCONSIN'S OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSFORM EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Wisconsin values the first five years

The Preschool Development Grant - Birth to Five (PDG B-5) is a one-year federal grant that will allow Wisconsin to complete a needs assessment and a strategic plan to improve our early care and education system. The grant focuses on the following activities:

- Attracting and retaining early care and education professionals;
- Empowering families to make the best choices for their children;
- Building regional networks of support;
- And, increasing overall quality of early care and education programs.

Through this work, our vision is that by 2023, all Wisconsin families will have access to high-quality, affordable, local early care and education opportunities. By working together – intentionally aligning and improving how we support and serve our youngest children and their families – we will help every child succeed and help Wisconsin thrive.

Attract and retain professionals
Gathering diverse evidence that understands the needs of local families and communities

Empower families
Helping families and connect them to local programs that meet their needs

Build networks of support
Creating local partnerships and programs to address the unique challenges they face

Increase quality
Encouraging quality programs meet the expectations of the local communities they serve

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Conference Snapshots

Nurturing Brain Development & Self-Care Conference

Held February 15

Nearly 100 Early Care and Education Professionals in Attendance

Conference Partners:



No Kid Hungry

No Kid Hungry is offering real time funding and assistance for schools, early child care centers and community organizations that are making sure kids have access to the meals they need as schools close due to coronavirus. No Kid Hungry is providing emergency grants to support these local efforts like home delivered meals, grab and go meals programs, school and community pantries, backpack programs, and other steps to help reach children and families who lose access to meals. We're providing \$1 million in emergency grants on a rolling basis. This is the first phase of an ongoing multi-million dollar response. Please visit the linked COVID-19 support inquiry form to learn more.

If your organization needs funding to support these efforts, please submit your interest in receiving emergency grant funds: <https://www.nokidhungry.org/coronavirus-grant-request>



Are You (or Someone You Know) Interested in Providing Child Care?

Ask Us About Child Care Start-Up Grants

If you enjoy helping children, providing child care may be a career option for you.

Childcaring is available to help answer questions like:

- How many children can I legally care for?
- What are the benefits to becoming regulated (certified or licensed)?
- What classes or training do I need to get started?
- What would I charge the families?

Contact Childcaring to learn more about start-up grant eligibility. Are you a newly regulated provider? Are there items you still need? If you became regulated within the past 6 months you may still be eligible to apply.

We are currently scheduling FREE Start-Up Information Sessions. Please note: The April 9 Start-Up Session in Wautoma was canceled due to COVID-19. Continue to check the Childcaring FB page and website as we work to update the schedule.

For more information or to receive individualized assistance about child care start-up please contact Gayle Schiszik, Certifier/Pre-licensing Consultant at: gayle@childcaring.org or call 715-841-9490.

Funding has been provided by:

WI Department of Children & Families: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/>

Supporting Families Together Association: www.supportingfamilies.together.org



Stay Involved

As much as things have changed in our world over the last few weeks, if there's ever been a time to make your voice heard, it's now. If you are not able to register and/or request an absentee ballot by the deadline(s), in-person voter registration and voting at your local polling place will still be occurring on Tuesday, April 7 (with social distancing in effect). Keep an eye on myvote.wi.gov for updates or reach out to your local clerk's office with questions.

Find Your Legislator

Not sure who your lawmakers are? This tool on the Childcare Aware website will identify your local, state and federal legislators:

<https://www.childcareaware.org/our-issues/public-policy/find-your-legislator/>

Newly Regulated Child Care Providers:

Brenda Burkhardt

Family Child Care Provider
Merrill

Darlene Tanck

Family Child Care Provider
Merrill

Tammy Tomczak

Family Child Care Provider
Owen

Early Childhood Professionals Deserve Worthy Wages

Worthy Wage Day is May 1. It is a national day of action held annually in May since 1992. The event is part of an ongoing effort in communities across the country to raise public awareness of:

- The low wages earned by early childhood educators;
- The impact the teacher retention crisis has on young children;
- The chronic public underfunding for early education.

Let's all support worthy wages for early educators, not just today, but every day.

Child Care Information for Providers and Educators

Please continue to monitor this DCF web page for updated resources:

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/childcare/providers>



Update your information in Provider Portal as soon as possible and on an ongoing basis. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) needs to know whether your center is open or closed, and for providers that are open, the number of slots you have open and the ages of kids that can be served. Staff will be calling you to verify this information. Accurate information from you helps us find child care for essential workers and keeps them serving our communities. The Provider Portal now allows you to enter all of this information and more.



Celebrate NAEYC's Week of the Young Child™

April 11–17, 2020

The Week of the Young Child™ (WOYC) is an annual celebration hosted by NAEYC to spotlight early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities. Join us in celebrating five fun-filled, themed days to celebrate of our youngest learners:

- **Music Monday**
- **Tasty Tuesday**
- **Work Together Wednesday**
- **Artsy Thursday**
- **Family Friday**

Check out the Childcaring FB page for WOYC posts! To learn more visit:
<https://www.naeyc.org/events/woyc/overview>



Congratulations to Micki and Rachele
 for receiving 2019 Speaker of the Year awards
 from United Way of Marathon County, at the
 Recognition Luncheon & Annual Meeting January 29.



APRIL IS NATIONAL
CHILD ABUSE
 PREVENTION MONTH

Participate in THE PAPERDOLL PROJECT!

Doll makers are needed: Children are the artists!

Children decorate two paper dolls in their own image - one to keep and one to donate for display at a local business. Providers can make a sign identifying their center/program which is displayed with your paper dolls, and the WOYC sign. You may already have a parent whose child attends your center who works or owns a local business that would like to display your dolls. If you are a bigger center maybe you could split your dolls up by classroom and display them at multiple businesses. The goal is to locally promote young children for the month of April. For more information on the paperdoll project contact: Childcaring. To learn more about Week of the Young Child activities visit <http://www.naeyc.org/woyc>



Childcaring Celebrates Literacy

To celebrate reading to children, Childcaring participated in Read Across America / Dr. Seuss's birthday Monday, March 2. Childcaring visited and read at area child care programs throughout the day. It was a fun event and as Dr. Seuss would say: *"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."*

Start with your goal(s), then go searching for your activities:



WMELS C.EL.2 Uses tools to gather information, compare observed objects, and seek answers to questions through active investigation.

This goal reminds me of the beautiful books around "Loose Parts". You can even google "loose parts" and get a ton of pictures which will give you ideas of what to gather.

The learning happens with the probing questions you use as well as responding to the questions the children ask. As we encourage scientific thinking you will want to investigate how things are the same or different, do they float or sink, what could something be used for (as a tool). The use of loose parts can expand to the world outside, in the kitchen, and throughout centers in the classroom.

Submitted by: Beth Tepper, CESA 9



ChildCare Education Instit...
globenewsire.com



LOOSE PARTS PLAY...
workspaceforchildren.com



Sick Simon: Showing Learning with Loose...
ennacrosland.edublogs.org

You Are Not Alone!

In this challenging time, we all need to reach out to connect with others in a safe space.

WI-AIMH is offering an opportunity to connect during this time of social distancing. You can schedule a time to engage in a Zoom conversation with a trained

Facilitator to talk about what is concerning to you or just to connect with another compassionate human! Look for details about participating at: <https://wiaimh.org/you-are-not-alone>

Wisconsin Alliance for
Infant Mental Health



Celebrate National Volunteer Week, April 19-25

Childcaring would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to volunteers!

Jo Ann, Mary, and Gloria,
we so appreciate your time, energy,
and visits to Childcaring ☺!



Home Alone –

Preparing Children For Self Care

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension has created videos for parents and their children who are getting ready to stay home alone. Parents and children should watch the videos together and use the short activities after each video to discuss your plans to stay safe. <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/homealone/>



Home Alone
Division of Extension

Here to Help

Highlights a Resource Organization Available to Help -

What Is Child Find?

Childcaring - A Community Partner in the Informed Referral Network

Child Find is a continuous process of public awareness activities, screening and evaluation designed to locate, identify, and refer as early as possible all young children with disabilities and their families who are in need of an Early Intervention Program (Part C) or Early Childhood Special Education (Part B) services of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

School districts are required to locate, identify and evaluate children with disabilities within their attendance area. To assist

Child  Find

Finding Children with Disabilities

in this child find process, districts have developed "Informed Referral Networks." An Informed Referral Network is comprised of community partners, including Childcaring, that work together to serve young children and their families. Relationships with community partners have proven to be the most effective practice in identifying children with disabilities. These partnerships provide an opportunity to learn more about screening young children and providing information about community resources. This community network refers children who may have a disability and a need for special education. For more information about Child Find visit the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/early-childhood/child-find> or contact Childcaring.



Childcaring is supported in part by:



Xav tau kev pab pes/txhais daim ntawv xovxwm
no thov hu tuaj rau
Kao Lai Xiong 715-841-9490
Hnub Monday-Friday 8:30 txog 4:30.

Vision

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

2020 Childcaring Board of Directors

Brad Gast, President

Donna Ginzl, Vice President

Michelle Rantala, Treasurer

Joan Krohn, Secretary

Jane Brandt

Annett Mooney

Tammy Schreiber

Tina Smith

Nancy Vance

Barry West

Childcaring Staff Spotlight

Hello! My name is Kao Lai Xiong. I am an Early Childhood Consultant/Trainer/Bilingual Aide, and YoungStar Consultant. I have worked for Childcaring 16 years. I have an Associate Degree in Early Childhood and Business Management.

My husband and I have six children, four girls and two boys, their ages range from 4 to 25 years old. Our family has lived in Wausau for the past 22 years. We enjoy traveling together and our last family vacation was to Laos.

I enjoy working with families and child care providers in the community. I help them understand the importance of quality child care. I believe that children need to be in an environment that promotes safety and an understanding of a child's growth and development.

What did you enjoy playing most as a child?

As a child, my favorite thing to do was play hide-and-seek with the neighborhood children.

