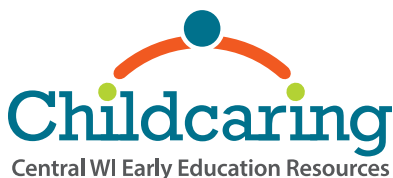
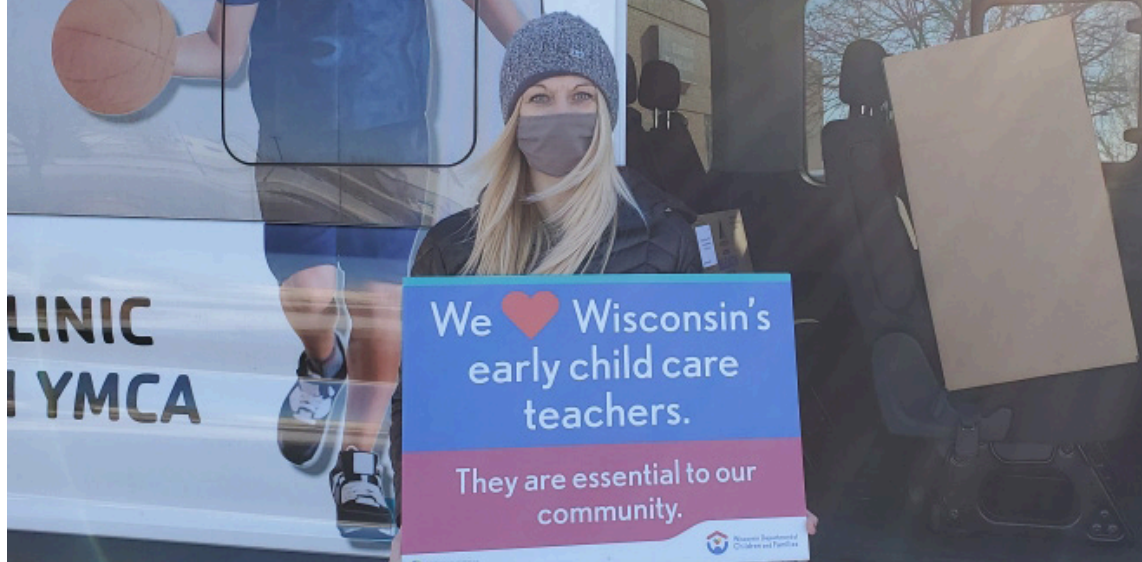




Issue #46  
April, May, June 2021



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

[info@childcaring.org](mailto: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, email or by appointment.*

## 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

## Show Your Support for Quality Early Child Care

**Celebrate Provider Appreciation Day May 7**

Every day early childhood professionals support children and their families. COVID-19 has impacted every child and family differently. For some, the pandemic has presented challenges and anxieties. Quality child care is so important to the social emotional development and wellbeing of our youngest learners. Now, more than ever, the pandemic has brought to the forefront something that we knew for decades-child care providers are more than essential in so many ways.

**To celebrate early childhood professionals and all they do, Childcaring is holding our annual provider appreciation drawing.** Simply fill out the short survey for a chance to be entered in a drawing to win a gift card for **both you and the regulated child care provider** you nominate. [Complete this survey](#) by 5/6/21. Only families and child care providers in our service delivery area are eligible to win.

Last year a parent wrote, *"Our provider is the most caring person to take care of our little family. We have been going to her for 5 years so far. She is like another mother/grandma to my kids. She spends many hours teaching, singing, reading and loving them every day. The meals she makes the kids are outstanding. Everything fresh and made from scratch. The kids always say she makes the best food! She definitely deserves this award for the loving and caring person that she is."*

We just can't say thank you enough. We know that early childhood professionals have been faced with many challenges: dealing with financial uncertainty, keeping informed on rapidly changing protocols, navigating financial relief programs and much more. Despite the challenges, they continue to take steps to do what is best for children and families. Please join us in showing our gratitude and celebrate this important day for them and all they do.



## Worthy Wage Day is May 1

We know that child care is the backbone of our nation's economy. This day gives us a chance to recognize that the low wages early educators earn are unacceptable. Many early childhood educators earn less than \$15 an hour and don't receive any benefits. Now more than ever, the early care workforce deserves a living wage. Join Childcaring and use #WorthyWageDay to post on social media.

## YOUNGSTAR CORNER

### Child Care Strong

In a child care provider listserv email on March 2, DCF announced that YoungStar micro-grant funds will be transitioning to the new large-scale financial incentive program for child care providers, Child Care Strong.

However, the goal of this change is to increase the amount of financial support available to child care providers, not reduce it. DCF is confident the new Child Care Strong program will offer substantial monthly financial assistance directly to providers, and the funds that are currently going toward the micro-grant program will be part of that. The details of the program and how providers would apply for those funds are still in development, but DCF will release more information when it is available. So keep watch on your email for exciting opportunities in the coming months.

There will be a transition period as the micro-grant program closes.

- All Purchase Plans from open programs that have been received or are in process **will be completed** through the usual process.
- Any open program that chose to receive on-site TA services (of any amount) for the 2020 service year, but has not yet submitted a Purchase Plan, **will be issued a check** for the full amount of their 2020 grant in April or May, 2021.
- Programs that are temporarily closed are not eligible to receive a micro-grant.

At this time, you do not need to take any action either to receive your micro-grant order or a check, if you are eligible.

Please reach out to your YoungStar Technical Consultant with any questions.

### Newly Regulated Child Care Providers:

**Sandra Pryne,**  
**Sandy's Daycare**  
Family Child Care, Amherst

**Samantha Hicks,**  
**Building Blocks Childcare**  
Group Child Care Center, Oxford

**Mariah Kaiser,**  
**Busy Bee Childcare**  
Family Child Care, Stratford

## 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





## with Regulated Early Childhood Professional: Family Child Care Provider Mary Olson at Little Sneakers Family Daycare, Stevens Point

*Thank you, Mary, for your time and contribution to our newsletter!*

### 1. What do you enjoy most about providing child care?

Obviously, I wouldn't be still doing this after 32 years if I didn't enjoy hanging out with the kids and watching them grow... that's sort of a 'given'. But I chose Family Day Care because of the connection--the connection to the kids that is often a lifelong connection, the connection to the parents that extends way beyond the early years, the connection to the family and what gives each family its unique energy, the connection between the kids that keeps them seeking time to hang out together. The multi-age, single group format of FDC means the children grow up like a family--the older kids help take care of the younger kids, traditions are passed from one group to the next, and as children 'age out' of needing childcare and 'age in' to being a 'big kid' they get to visit on days off and in summers. Our Christmas party and summer picnic are like family reunions. I am truly blessed.

### 2. What activities are you planning for Week of the Young Child™ (April 10-16)?

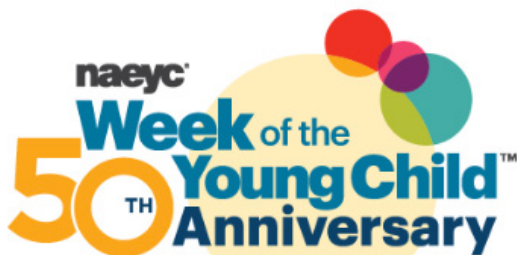
As for the WOYC, I am currently making plans. In years past, my kids chose to do things that would 'decorate' the outside of my home. A few years ago, they made a 'banner' that we hung in front of the garage and they made baskets (think 'May Day') to deliver to my neighbors. This group of kiddos is very into planning surprises and decorating so likely they will choose similar activities. They spend a lot of time in the Atelier creating party decorations and then promptly decorating our play space with all their creations. I should buy stock in scotch tape!!

### 3. What do you like most about participating in YS?

Honestly when the star rating system came up years ago, I was turned off. I already had so many years of experience under my belt and did not feel I should have to prove myself by earning a star. I didn't know much about the program and what it really entailed. One year I had a family on Wisconsin Shares and had to become involved with Youngstar. I didn't choose a formal rating that year--it was sort of a 'get my feet wet' year. When my rating expired, I didn't choose to renew it right away. I didn't have any families on Wis Shares and didn't have time to put into it. My YoungStar Technical Consultant (TC) encouraged me and quickly became my rock. She helped me organize things I was already doing and helped me find ways to incorporate the things I wasn't doing. I made choices and justified my choices in the areas of the formal rating where I knew I wouldn't score well and with her help was able to focus on the areas I found to be most important. Youngstar has helped me find my professional voice again. The support from the team at Childcaring has been amazing! My TC and I stay in touch both professionally and in our new friendship - she has been my biggest cheerleader and I am so grateful for her!

### 4. What did you choose to have the YS Technical Consultant assist you with?

My formal rating occurred just before COVID hit and the process was completed at the end of Feb of 2020. My YoungStar TC, ERS Observer Sue Vanderloop, and I met (in person!) and went over the results of the formal observation and then the universe went into lockdown. I enjoyed having a second set of eyes look at what I do and give me feedback. The YoungStar TC had great suggestions for organizing all the developmental screenings, assessments, and developmental goals for the kids. The Youngstar process helped me to put all the pieces together and bring a sense of professionalism to my business again. I still stay in touch with my YoungStar TC through email, and she continues to be as supportive as ever.



## Celebrate NAEYC's Week of the Young Child™ April 10-16, 2021

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. #WOYC21. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of WOYC. 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 the NAEYC website and view the activity resources for ideas to help you plan your 2021 virtual celebration! <https://www.naeyc.org/events/woyc/overview>**

# 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](http://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.

### Art in Action: Tools to Support the Creative Process in Children

The training will walk providers through approaches on how adults can support children's creative experiences in art. Art will be explored through hands on activities.

- **April 8-14**  
Presented Online through Canvas  
\$20/Register by Sunday, April 4

### Abusive Head Trauma Prevention Training for Child Care Providers

During this two hour training you will gain awareness of AHT, its adverse consequences and how it is preventable. You will develop the knowledge and skills to handle the challenges and frustrations of infant crying, including soothing strategies.

- **April 15**  
Presented Virtually through Childcaring (10:30 am-12:30 pm)  
\$15/Register by Thursday, April 8
- **June 17**  
Presented Virtually through Childcaring (10:30 am-12:30 pm)  
\$15/Register by Thursday, June 10

### Developmentally Appropriate Practice Foundations: Why We Do What We Do

Best practice in early care and education is based on how children develop and learn in the early years. Developmentally Appropriate Practice is about what you do with that knowledge and how you do it.

- **May 6-12**  
Presented Online through Canvas  
\$20/Register by Sunday, May 2

### Healthy Bites: Nutrition for Children Ages One to Twelve

Healthy Bites was created to encourage and empower each of you as ECE professionals to address overall childhood health by improving nutrition practices in your program. This training will equip you with the information, tools, ideas and inspiration to help the children in your care grow up healthy.

- **May 4 & May 18 (must attend both dates)**  
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Presented Virtually through Childcaring  
Free/ Apply by Friday, April 23

**Participants will receive a Nutrition kit after completing this training ~ Valued up to \$75!**

Registration is limited to 25 child care providers within our service delivery area. Please limit 2 applicants per program. Participants will be notified by Tuesday, April 27th of approval.

### Introduction to the Environmental Rating Scales - Supporting Programs Participating in YoungStar

This course will provide you with an introduction to the Environment Rating Scales, referred to as ERS tools. The ERS tools provide an overall picture of the environment that has been created for the children and adults who share an early childhood setting. This course will introduce you to each of the four scales, providing an overview of how and when to use each scale to assess program quality.

- **June 3-9**  
Presented Online through Canvas  
\$20/Register by Sunday, May 30

### Strengthening Families

This training will provide participants the connections between the factors that prevent child abuse and neglect and the strategies that quality early childhood programs can use to build them up.

- **July 15-21**  
Presented Online through Canvas  
\$20/Register by Sunday, July 11

## There's a Difference: Childcaring Online vs. Virtual Trainings

**Online through Canvas:** Online trainings are self-paced for participants to complete within a 7-day period. You will be emailed a link from University of Wisconsin Canvas with login information to access the course. As a participant you will listen to recorded content and have activities and discussions required to be completed within the 7-day timeframe. Childcaring staff will facilitate the training, participate in discussions, review coursework, and answer questions.

**Virtual:** Virtual trainings are presented live with Childcaring staff on a specific day and time through a platform such as RingCentral or Microsoft Teams. Virtual trainings are just like in person trainings, only through technology. As a participant you are encouraged to participate in group activities and discussions. To achieve optimal experience, you must have a reliable internet connection and technology to support video and audio (camera and microphone). You will receive a link from Childcaring staff via email prior to the start date.



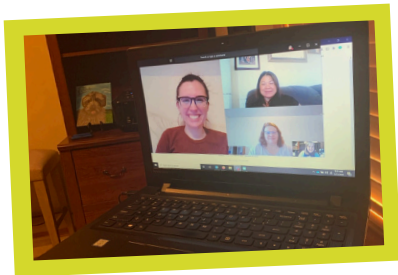
# VIRTUAL HUDDLES FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

*Join the Conversation ...*

***"It is easy to talk with others and get their input on certain topics.  
Lots of very good information!"***

*-Quote from a Child Care Provider*

Virtual Huddles let us share ideas, concerns, and resources. This is a great opportunity to talk and hear from other early care professionals about how they are handling different situations. Huddles allow us to work together and support each other. There will be separate huddles for family child care and group center staff. Join us for one, two, or all three huddles.



## **Family Child Care Huddles:**

Thursdays from 6-7pm  
April 15, May 13, June 10

## **Group Center Huddles:**

Third Tuesday of the month from 1-2pm  
April 20, May 18, June 15

Please register at least 3 days prior to the huddle date.

Register online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MG6M68Q> or

email: [info@childcaring.org](mailto:info@childcaring.org) or call Childcaring 715-841-9490 / 1-800-628-8534. You can also scan this QR code:



Registered participants will receive a link or phone number to access the session prior to the start date. Registered participants will receive a link or phone number to access the session prior to the start date. Virtual huddles will be through Zoom, powered by Ring-Central. To access, participants will need to download an app to a device such as a computer, tablet, or smart phone. Participation by telephone is also available, however Zoom is encouraged as information could be shared visually.

**For Fun:** Everyone who joins in the huddles will have their name entered in a gift card drawing. The more huddles you attend, the more times your name is entered. There will be a separate drawing for the Family Child Care Huddle and Group Center Huddle. The two winners will be announced on Facebook Friday, June 18. Winners will also be contacted by phone. Congratulations to the Winter Virtual Huddle Winners: Barb Ramlow and Chia Her!



## **Virtual Director Cohort Provides Supports to Connect, Share, Learn, and Let Go!**

Members of the Director Cohort have been meeting virtually since last July. They meet, connect, and share their struggles and challenges. All the Directors have so much on their plate, so in the beginning of each Cohort session, participants are encouraged to try to "gift" this time to themselves because they need and deserve it.

Each Cohort focuses on a specific topic. One Cohort focused on staff evaluations. The directors discussed: alignment of job duties with the evaluation, evaluations done by staff, goal setting, and feedback to staff along with coaching and mentoring. Setting goals and making plans with regular one on one meetings to show teachers support was discussed. Every day teachers support the child working towards an outcome, we can also do this for the goals we create as adults and professionals. The directors also discussed how this can impact job

satisfaction which in return creates longevity. Staff evaluation can be looked at as a puzzle with many pieces that come together and all touch.

Youngstar was another topic of discussion. The directors played a game called "New Youngstar On The Block." The Directors were given an informative overview of the changes in the 2021-2022 evaluation criteria. They broke into two small groups to discuss the information, then met back in the large group to answer questions and play the game. The directors laughed, relaxed, and learned.

The Director Cohort gives Directors a space to feel supported with no judgement. Everyone moves forward and supports each other the best they can because they all have a passion for children and families. This is their "cozy corner."





# Is Child Care the Career for You?

## FREE Virtual Information Session on Child Care Start Up

Do you enjoy helping young children? Would you like to be your own boss? Child care may be the business for you! Communities need care for children of all ages, but especially for infants and toddlers. If you, or someone you know, is interested in providing quality child care please contact Childcaring.

Childcaring is offering a FREE virtual information session Thursday, May 13 (1-2pm). To register by Thursday May 6, call Childcaring at 1-800-628-8534 or scan the QR Code.



**Start Up Grants are Available!** Contact Childcaring to learn more about start-up grant eligibility. If you became regulated within the past six months you may still be eligible to apply.

Virtual sessions will be through Zoom, powered by RingCentral. To access, participants will need to download an app to a device such as a computer, tablet, or smart phone. Participation by phone is also available, however Zoom is encouraged as information will be shared visually. Registered participants will receive a link or phone number to access the session prior to the start date

### QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS HAVE PROVEN BENEFITS

"Recent evidence shows that comprehensive, birth-to-age-five quality early childhood programs that incorporate health and nutrition can permanently boost IQ, prevent chronic disease and lower healthcare costs."

Professor James Heckman  
Nobel Laureate in Economics  
March 23, 2015, Early Learning Water Cooler Conference

LEARN MORE AT [HECKMANEQUATION.ORG](http://HECKMANEQUATION.ORG)

Funding has been provided by:

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

Supporting Families Together Association:  
[www.supportingfamilies.together.org](http://www.supportingfamilies.together.org)

## DCF Update: Fingerprinting Requirements Resume on March 15

Many Fieldprint fingerprinting locations were temporarily closed due to the public health crisis. To help providers during this challenging time, DCF paused fingerprint monitoring and conducted interim name-based background checks so individuals could receive temporary eligibility to work or reside in a child care center.

With the majority of Fieldprint locations once again open to the public, the FBI fingerprint requirements can now resume under the Caregiver Background Check Law, Wisconsin Statute § 48.686. Open Fieldprint sites can be found on their website or call 888-472-8918. A copy of the fingerprint instruction letter is available in the Child Care Provider Portal (CCPP).

Beginning March 15, 2021, all new individuals will need to complete a Fieldprint appointment before they can receive eligibility to work or reside at a child care program. The eligibility of existing individuals with name-based background checks expires June 1, 2021.

For completed details, visit the DCF Background Check Requirements webpage. If you have questions regarding background check requirements, please contact the Child Care Background Unit by calling 608-422-7400 or emailing [DCFPlcBECRCBU@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DCFPlcBECRCBU@wisconsin.gov).

# Virtual Parent Café

**"I really love parent cafes!  
It's always just what I need."**

- Parent who participated in a virtual Parent Café

Virtual Parent Cafés are a fulfilling way for parents to talk, to listen, and to support others with stressors, worries and challenges that many have struggled with alone.

### What happens at a Virtual Parent Café?

Parents log in together to connect, support each other and discuss various questions in small groups facilitated by a Parent Host. Each week has a different theme. We encourage you try to find a comfortable place to enjoy the café; one with as few distractions as possible.

**Join us online 6-7pm:**

**Monday, April 5**  
**Monday, April 19**  
**Monday, May 3**  
**Monday, May 17**



Register at  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Spring21cafe>  
or  
use this QR code:



**For questions,** contact Childcaring at 1-800-628-8534 or [info@childcaring.org](mailto:info@childcaring.org)  
Register for the sessions that work with your schedule, a link to log in will be emailed the morning of each session. It is easiest to attend the café on a computer or tablet, but a smartphone also works.

**These Cafés are funded by:**



Marquette County  
Parent Information  
Exchange (PIE)



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

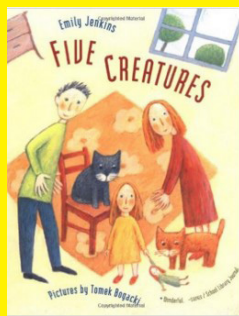
WMELS B.EL.1 Demonstrates Understanding of Numbers and Counting  
AND WMELS B.EL.2 Understands Number Operations and Relationships.

Have you ever heard the word subitizing? It is the ability to instantly know how many are in a group. It is being able to look at 3 objects and without counting them know it is "3." It begins at about age 3. This leads to being able to recognize that the quantity 5 can be 2 plus 3, 4 plus 1, 3 plus 2, 1 plus 4. Adding subitizing activities to what you do with children will help with goals in math.



"I have this many dots on my bread can you make yours look the same?"

A great book to use is *Five Creatures* by Emily Jenkins. The five creatures in the family are divided differently on each page (mother, father, child and two cats.) "Three short and two tall." "Four who like to eat fish, one who does not."



Submitted by: Beth Tepper, CESA 9

## Support Childcaring Inc.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

**amazonsmile**

## Please consider supporting us every time you shop.

Here's how:

To shop, enter: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1673734>

Your account, password, and settings are the same.

You'll get the same products and prices, with the bonus that Amazon will give .5% of the purchase price from your Amazon order to Childcaring.

You can also turn on AmazonSmile in the shopping app to generate even more donations.

It doesn't cost you anything extra! You Shop. Amazon gives.

## Celebrate National Volunteer Week, April 18-24

Childcaring would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to volunteers!  
We so appreciate everything you do!



**THANK YOU EARLY  
CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS  
CARD PROJECT**  
*A fun way to volunteer*

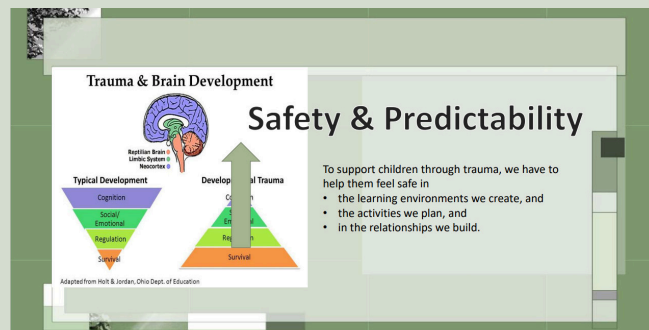


Are you looking for a fun and creative volunteer project for adults or children? Do you enjoy making cards? Childcaring is collecting homemade cards throughout the year as a thank you to early childhood professionals. View the project details at [www.childcaring.org](http://www.childcaring.org).

## Conference Snapshot

### Early Childhood Conference – Teacher as Shelter: Trauma-Informed Care in the Age of COVID-19

Over 60 early care and education professionals attended this conference virtually February 27, 2021. The presentation, presented by Michelle Salcedo, focused on recognizing the impact of trauma on children's behaviors.

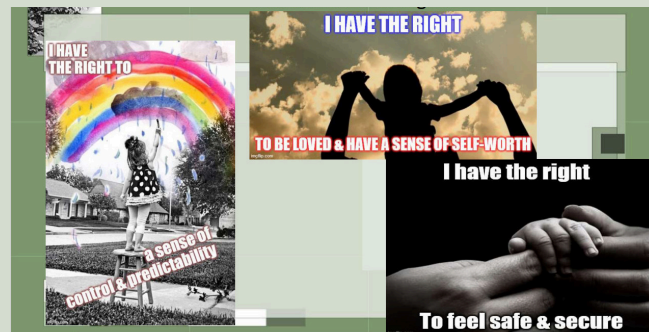


Some participants said this about the event,

*"Perfect time for this presentation, right on target."*

*"It was very eye-opening, I have a family of five children in my care that have been removed from their parents care because of drug abuse and the conference really helped me understand some of the children's behavior."*

*"She was a wonderful presenter. She has encouraged me to look at things differently."*



To learn more about this important topic visit:



Conference Partners:  
Childcaring & Northcentral Technical College





Childcaring is supported in part by:



Wisconsin Department of  
Children and Families

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.

## 2021 Childcaring Board of Directors

Brad Gast, President

Barry West, Vice President

Michelle Rantala, Treasurer

Joan Krohn, Secretary

Jane Brandt

Annett Mooney

Jeffrey Raymond

Tammy Schreiber

Ciara Schultz

Tina Smith

Nancy Vance

## Board Spotlight

Good Day Everybody, my name is Annett Mooney and I am a member of the Childcaring Board of Directors. I have been serving on the board for a year and half now. It is exciting to be part of the board and working together to assist and evolve child care options for our communities. I was amazed to learn about all the work that Childcaring does and what you have accomplished in all the communities you serve. Thank you for helping our communities to support, improve and enhance the quality of child care.

I am a first-generation immigrant to the United States. I grew up in East Germany, which later became part of a unified Germany in 1990. I have a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and have been working in Human Services for almost 19 years now. I worked for the Department of Family and Children Services in Georgia as an Economic Support Supervisor until I moved to Wisconsin. For the last 8 years I have been working for Marquette County Human Services, at first as an Economic Support Worker and 5 years ago I was promoted to the Manager of Economic and Child Support. My staff and I manage applications and ongoing caseloads for various public assistance programs like FoodShare, BadgerCare including Medicaid and Long-term care programs, Child Care, Child Support as well as the Energy Assistance program for Marquette County. My team and I are very passionate about the work we do to support families to become more self-sufficient. Marquette County is a rural county and our families do not have a lot of options finding childcare; in fact we only have 3 full time care options. My wish during my tenure on the board is that families will be able to have more child care options in rural areas.

My family consists of an awesome partner, a daughter and two step children who are dear to my heart. We enjoy all kinds of outdoors activities in Wisconsin, especially during the winter months. Usually we are never home on the weekends, but you will find us exploring Wisconsin and participating in activities throughout the area. I want to take this opportunity to thank everybody for the outstanding job they have done and currently do with constantly changing circumstances.

