



## Why Invest In Early Childhood?

There is a wealth of research and data that connect high quality early childhood experiences to children's readiness for school and later life success. Children's readiness can be assessed by:

- **Physical Well-Being & Motor Skills**  
Dressing self, being well-rested and well-nourished, cutting, running and jumping
- **Social & Emotional Development**  
Positive interactions, self-regulate, understand and express feelings, solve conflicts, empathize with others, take turns, and sharing.
- **Cognition & Language**  
Observe, ask questions and problem solve, have an enthusiastic and curious approach to new activities, and communicate and understand the connection between letters and sounds.

**"Supporting families with the cost of quality preschool and child care will result in a more efficient and productive American workforce in both the short-term and long-term."**

*(First Five Years Fund: [www.ffyf.org](http://www.ffyf.org))*

# Good Start Grants

Providing financial assistance for eligible families to ensure they have access to quality, affordable child care.

Established in 2014 in partnership with



United Way  
of Marathon County

Our communities value quality early childhood experiences for our children and families.

Visit [www.childcaring.org/needhelpaying](http://www.childcaring.org/needhelpaying) for a list of all current funders.

## For more information contact:


### Childcaring, Inc.

Your Local Child Care  
Resource & Referral Agency

850 Highway 153, Suite F  
Mosinee, WI 54455

715.841.9490 / 1.800.628.8534  
[info@childcaring.org](mailto:info@childcaring.org)  
[www.childcaring.org](http://www.childcaring.org)

# Good Start Grants



**Childcaring**  
Central WI Early Education Resources  
*Your Local Child Care Resource & Referral Agency*

## About Good Start Grants

Good Start Grants (GSG) will help meet the funding gap, between what child care programs need to charge to offer a quality experience and what families can afford.

Families should not have to choose between affordable care and high quality care - care that provides a safe, stable, developmentally appropriate environment.

GSG also has a positive impact for child care programs. Some families stop working because they can't afford child care, causing some programs to close.

Quality child care programs are a critical piece of infrastructure for successful communities. A strong economy needs great child care: we can't work without it!



By providing Good Start Grants we hope to:

- Improve children's readiness for school and later life success.
- Reduce family burdens & financial stress.
- Support early childhood programs and professionals.
- Assist communities by contributing to solutions.

## How does it work?

GSG pays a portion (up to 65%) of a child's tuition. To qualify for GSG families will:

- Have a gross household income below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Participate in an approved activity, such as work or school.
- Attend a child care program that is rated 3 Stars or higher in YoungStar.



### Next steps:

- Submit an application to Childcaring. Applications are available at [www.childcaring.org/needhelppaying](http://www.childcaring.org/needhelppaying)
- Once approved, GSG will be paid directly to your child care program. Grant amounts are based on available funding.
- Families are responsible for paying the difference between what the child care program charges and the GSG portion.

**GSG varies by county and is dependent on continued funding. Please call or visit our website for the most current funding information, and eligibility guidelines.**



YoungStar, a program of the Department of Children and Families, is Wisconsin's child care rating and improvement system created to improve the quality of child care for Wisconsin children.

### YoungStar:

- Objectively measures child care quality.
- Helps parents choose the best child care for their children.
- Supports child care providers with tools & training to deliver high quality care.
- Sets a consistent standard for child care quality.

The education that nurturing child care programs provide makes a big difference in the lives of so many children and their families. Maintaining a safe, healthy place for children to learn and grow isn't easy; it takes hard work and dedication.

Child care programs are evaluated and given a rating from 1 to 5 Stars; with 5 being the highest rating.

For more information about YoungStar please visit our website at [www.childcaring.org](http://www.childcaring.org).

**If your child care program is interested in serving families receiving Good Start Grants, contact Childcaring for more information.**