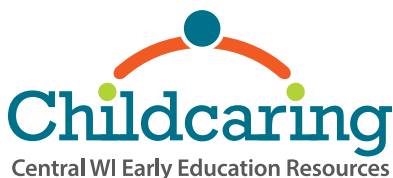




Issue #48

October, November, December 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:

Monday-Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

Limited Office Coverage M-Th

Additional office hours available  
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

### Early Childhood Professionals Help Shape the Future

*Are you or someone you know interested in providing child care?*

*"Children are our greatest treasure. They are our future." – Nelson Mandela*

Children are the future and providing their child care is a very important career path. If you are dedicated to helping young children and enjoy making a difference in the life of a child, you may want to consider a career in child care. Starting a child care business is one of the most important and rewarding careers you can have. Childcaring can help you find answers to the questions you have about providing child care.

Do you want to learn more about starting a child care business? Or do you know someone who would be a good fit as a child care provider? Please share this information:

#### FREE Virtual Start-Up Information Session

**October 20 (6:00-8:00pm)**

For more info & to register for the information session visit:

<https://childcaring.org/becomingregulated/>

or scan this QR code to register now:

**Register by: Wednesday, October 13.**



**Start-Up Grants are Available!** Eligible providers have used the funding to purchase equipment and materials, and classes required to obtain regulation (ie: fencing, safety gates, developmentally appropriate materials for a variety of age groups, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, etc.). Contact Childcaring to learn more about start-up grant eligibility. If you became regulated within the past three months you may still be eligible to apply.

Kari, a child care provider in Stevens Point says this about providing child care, "There is always so much to learn and not one child is the same. I get to see children develop, learn and flourish under our care. We get to see the children develop from babies into young people. It is a privilege that the families entrust us with their children and we are so fortunate to get to play a role in their children's lives during those vital first five years." Providing child care is a valuable service to families and the community. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about providing child care, contact Childcaring today!

#### FREE AHT Training for Oct. 20 Information Session Participants

Childcaring is offering a virtual Abusive Head Trauma Prevention Training for Child Care Providers on October 21 (10:30am - 12:30pm). The training is FREE to Oct. 20 information session participants or \$15. This training addresses the latest information on: Abusive Head Trauma; Shaken Baby Syndrome, The Period of Purple Crying; Strategies and challenges of soothing; Coping with frustration; Having a plan and educating others. Call Childcaring to register.

These sessions will be presented virtually by RingCentral. To achieve optimal experience, you must have a reliable internet connection and technology that supports video and audio. Participation by phone is available, however video is encouraged as visual information is shared. A link to log into the session will be sent via email prior to the start date.

## YOUNGSTAR CORNER

### YoungStar Certificates

Programs already rated using the 2021/2022 YoungStar criteria are able to print an updated YoungStar certificate from the Child Care Provider Portal (CCPP). The new certificate includes the programs star rating, indicates if they actively work with a quality coach and lists any High Quality Practices they have demonstrated. In the portal, click on facility details and then YoungStar details to find links to print either a color or black & white copy to proudly post at your program. If you don't have access to a printer, you can also contact your YoungStar Quality Coach and they can print and mail copies to you. Programs not yet rated on the new YoungStar criteria will have access to the new certificate after they complete their next rating.



## 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

## Attention Providers Rated 3, 4, or 5 Stars in YoungStar:

Do you have parents that struggle to pay their child care tuition? GSG can help with weekly tuition, high WI Shares co-pays, past due balances, and isolation/quarantine absences.

Please call us to get more information or encourage the families you serve to contact Childcaring and ask about Good Start Grants.

We can help determine if they are eligible.

For more information, visit:

<https://childcaring.org/needhelppaying>  
or scan the QR code:



“ up to 65%  
of tuition can  
be paid by  
GSG ”



## 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  
Becky Helf 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  
Deb Decker 715-898-2220

Wisconsin Rapids Child Care Advocates Council  
Jamie Lane 715.323.2546

## Childcaring Central WI Early Education Resources

# VIRTUAL HUDDLES FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

*Join the Conversation ...*

Connect to share ideas, concerns, and resources during this challenging time.

## A great way to share ideas, concerns and resources!

*"The huddles are a very good thing. I don't believe I have missed one! The huddle has been a great way for me to connect with other family providers and share ideas. I love that they are once a month. I usually write down questions I think of during the month and then appreciate being able to discuss these topics in the group. It has also helped me to learn more about upcoming trainings. We get a lot accomplished in a hour!"*

*-Mary Tinkey, Family Child Care Provider*

Virtual Huddles are 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 are separate huddles for family child care and group center staff.

Join us for one or both of the upcoming huddles:

### Family Child Care

Thursdays from 6-7pm  
October 14 & November 18

### Group Center Staff

Third Wednesday of the month  
from 1-2pm  
October 20 & November 17

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 the above QR code:



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 RingCentral. 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 Monday, November 22. Winners will also be contacted by phone.



# October is Safe Sleep and SIDS Awareness Month

## October Childcaring Sleep Sack Drawing – Enter to WIN!

Enter for a chance to win a cotton Childcaring sleep sack. Sleep sacks are wearable blankets that keep babies safe and securely wrapped for a cozy sleep. These sleep sacks are sized to fit babies up to 16 lbs. To access the entry form simply scan this QR code or enter by visiting the Childcaring website or Childcaring Facebook page. Winners will be drawn throughout the month of October, announced on Facebook and contacted by phone. Good luck!



SCAN ME

**Safe Sleep for Your Baby**

Each year in the United States, thousands of babies die suddenly and unexpectedly. Some of these deaths result from **Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)** and other sleep-related causes of infant death, such as suffocation.

**Safe Sleep Environment**

To **reduce the risk of SIDS** and other sleep-related causes of infant death:

- Always place baby on his or her back to sleep, for naps, and at night.
- Share your room with baby. Keep baby close to your bed, on a separate surface designed for infants.
- Use a firm and flat sleep surface, such as a mattress in a safety-approved crib, covered by a fitted sheet with no other bedding or soft items in the sleep area.

**Breastfeeding reduces the risk of SIDS**

Babies who are breastfed to one year experience a lower risk of SIDS compared with babies who were not breastfed. According to research, the longer you exclusively breastfeed your baby (nursing, not supplementing with formula), the lower the risk of SIDS.

If you bring baby into your bed for feeding, remove all soft items and bedding from the area. When finished, put baby back in a separate sleep area made for infants.

If you put baby to bed while feeding, place him or her back in the separate sleep area as soon as you're done.

Learn more about SIDS and safe sleep sleep: <http://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov>

## Phase 2 of the DCF/SFTA Data Exchange

In addition to the information we share on our referrals, DCF will show information in the following locations:

• **Provider Portal:** Providers can view the following information they have submitted to their local CCRR agency from the BIF:

- Preschool/4K information, Program Philosophy and Type of Care (before/after school, drop-in, etc.)
- Pricing such as fees, discounts and prices the program charges
- Enrollment, vacancies and waiting list

• **Child Care Finder-Public Search:** Following information will be available for the public to view when searching for child care programs:

- Types of care (before/after school, drop-in care, etc.)
- Philosophy
- Vacancies
- Wait-lists

Child Care Providers - Please keep your Business Information Form (BIF) updated. The form is sent to you from Childcaring, at least annually. This information (such as vacancies, hours, ages served, etc.) is live and available to the public. Remember, the link you have to your BIF is always active and you can make changes throughout the year as needed. If you don't have the link we emailed, please contact Childcaring and we'd be happy to get that to you. Thanks for your help.



# Training Opportunities

Visit or scan this QR code to view our online training calendar for the most up-to-date training opportunities.

## Register Online for Childcaring Trainings

To register for individual trainings, visit [www.the-registry.org](http://www.the-registry.org), click Search for Trainings and search by Course Title. Training information is sent to the email address listed in the Registry. You need to have a current and unique email address in your Registry profile. If you do not receive the information, check your spam/junk mail or contact Childcaring.



### Exploring the Third Edition of the Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale, Supporting Programs Participating in YoungStar – Presented Online

This five-hour online course will provide you with a comprehensive look at the Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale-Third Edition, referred to as ITERS-3. ITERS-3 is designed to assess center-based childcare programs for children birth to 3 years.

- Thursday, October 7 – Wednesday, October 13
- Pre-requisite: Introduction to the Environment Rating Scales or Moving to the Third Edition of the Environment Rating Scales

- Requirements for course: a copy of ITERS-3 Book
- \$20 / Register by Sunday, October 3

### Strengthening Families in ECE with Mandated Reporter – Presented Online

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.

- Thursday, October 21 – Wednesday, October 27
- \$20 / Register by Sunday, October 17

### Abusive Head Trauma Prevention Training for Child Care Providers – Presented Virtually

Gain awareness of AHT, its adverse consequences and how it is preventable.

- Thursday, October 21 ~ 10:30am-12:30pm  
FREE to Oct. 20 Information Session Participants  
-or- Cost: \$15 / Call Childcaring to Register Register by Thursday, October 14
- Thursday, December 16 ~ 10:30am-12:30pm  
\$15/Register by Thursday, December 9

### Safe and Healthy Environments – Presented Online

The Safe and Healthy Environments Online Training will explore health practices related to the early childhood environment. If you have previously taken the course Germs, Worms, Mud and Crud, you will find some familiar information. However, this course has been expanded and information added around best practice, licensing requirements, and the Environment Rating Scales has been incorporated.

- Thursday, November 4 – Wednesday, November 10
- \$20 / Register by Sunday, October 31

### Classrooms As the Root of Challenging Behaviors – Presented Virtually

In this training we will take your knowledge, combined with what research tells us to determine why children “misbehave” and what adaptations you can make to decrease the amount of “misbehaviors” that you see or deal with daily. The training offers you three hours of continuing education that is met with a combination of 2 hours virtual class time and 1 hour on your own learning.

- Monday, December 6, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm  
\$20 / Register by Sunday, November 28

### Exploring the Third Edition of the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale, Supporting Programs Participating in YoungStar – Presented Online

This five-hour online course will provide you with a comprehensive look at the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale-Third Edition, referred to as FCCERS-3. FCCERS-3 is designed to assess family child care programs serving children from birth through school-age, up to 12 years of age, including the provider's own children if present.

- Thursday, December 2 – Wednesday, December 8, 2021
- \$20 / Register by Sunday, December 5

### Exploring the Third Edition of the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale, Supporting Programs Participating in YoungStar – Presented Online

This five-hour online course will provide you with a comprehensive look at the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Third Edition, referred to as ECERS-3. ECERS-3 is designed to assess center-based childcare programs for preschool children 3 years through 5 years of age.

- Thursday, January 13 – Wednesday, January 19, 2022
- Pre-requisite: Introduction to the Environment Rating Scales or Moving to the Third Edition of the Environment Rating Scales
- Requirements for course: a copy of the ECERS-3 Book
- \$20 / Register by Sunday, January 9

### CPR with AED

The training will provide participants with Infant, Child, & Adult CPR

- Monday, November 8  
Childcaring, Mosinee 6:00pm-9:00pm  
\$45 / Book: \$5 / Register by Monday, November 1

## NEWLY REGULATED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS:

**Elise Schuler, Camp in the Gardens-Sprouts Garden**  
Preschool Program, Marathon

**Amy Hess, Amy's Child Care**  
Family Child Care, Tomahawk

**Jamie Granger, Kennedy Child Care**  
Group Child Care Center, Junction City

**Katie Steiber, Mama Bears Childcare LLC Site 2**  
Group Child Care Center, Marshfield



## with Regulated Early Childhood Professional:

**Family Child Care Provider Barbara Winslow at Country Corner Child Care in Marshfield**



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

I have been providing child care for 28 years. I really enjoy the children and how they love coming here and enjoy my cooking. These past months have been difficult for many, being a single mom and a sole income earner, I feel very grateful and blessed to have received some grants and assistance during this challenging time. With the additional funding, I was able to do many needed repairs and purchase NEW learning items for my daycare. I am very appreciative. Thank You! Over these past 18 months, I have felt more important than I have ever felt in past years and I'm grateful to be a part of the Child Care Family.

### What are some fun and innovative practices that you implement at your program?

This year I participated in the Healthy Bites training and received a FREE nutrition kit. I am very grateful for the virtual educational learning. I feel the class was taught very well by the teachers who made it fun and interesting. The children in my care had fun playing a vegetable game that was included in the kit. We also planted, picked, and ate many fresh vegetables we grew in our garden. Our favorite was the pea pods!

### What is a favorite memory you have working in child care?

One favorite memory is hard to choose because my group now is age 5 months to 6 years, but the memories of me being able to offer new learning at any age and seeing them get it and smile is so rewarding. I love seeing the children be proud and excited to share what they have learned. I like cooking new foods for them and I enjoy it when they tell me I'm a good cook. My favorite memories are when the children feel proud, that in turn, makes me happy and proud too.



# Childhood Nutrition Be a role model for your child

**Model eating fruits, vegetables, and whole grains at meals and snacks. Let your child see you enjoy these foods, too!**



- Have a structured meal time and eat together as a family.
- Involve your child in meal planning and prepping for the meal. Doing so can lead to a greater food acceptance!

### Introduce Nutrition at a young Age

- Young children quickly develop opinions about what foods they do/do not like, so providing fruits and vegetables at every snack and mealtime can help picky eaters warm up to fruits and vegetables more quickly.
- Explain how eating nutritious foods helps developing bodies-make it fun!

### Making fruits and vegetables fun!

- Create fun animals out of fruits and vegetables, such as ants on a log or elephant ears!
- Create assembly lines with fruits and veggies to create a fun salad or taco bar.

### Naturally occurring sugars vs. added sugars

- Naturally occurring sugars are found naturally in foods such as fruit (fructose) and milk (lactose). Added sugars include any sugars or caloric sweeteners that are added to foods or beverages during processing or preparation (such as putting sugar in your coffee or adding sugar to your cereal). Added sugars (or added sweeteners) can include natural sugars such as white sugar, brown sugar and honey as well as other caloric sweeteners that are chemically manufactured (such as high fructose corn syrup).

Submitted by: Marquette County Family Connections Coalition



# Parent Cafés Are Back This Fall!

Parent Cafés support parents in building friendships and a strong network of families who help each other stay strong! Join us **IN-PERSON** and **VIRTUALLY**! Each café will have a different theme.

## Upcoming dates:

**\*In-Person:** Monday, October 11, 6:00-7:30pm at  
Westfield Community Center (129 E. Third St, Westfield)

**Online:** Monday, October 4 and Monday, October 18, 6:00-7:00pm  
(Join us virtually from your computer, tablet or smartphone).

Register today: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/fall21cafe> or call 1-800-628-8534  
For more information visit and "Like" the Marquette County Parent Café Facebook page.

*\*Due to the ongoing pandemic conditions, we reserve the right to switch all sessions to virtual cafes.  
Face masks will be strongly encouraged during in-person cafes.*

Parent Café's are presented by: Childcaring, Marquette County Parent Exchange (PIE), Marquette County Human Services, Brakebush, Alliant Energy Foundation, University of Wisconsin-Madison Marquette County Extension



## Parents are Super Heros Too!

## Funding Opportunities for Early Care & Education Providers

In addition to the Department of Children and Families (DCF), several state agencies, including the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), are committed to working together to help build a more sustainable future for Wisconsin's ECE providers and families. The opportunities listed in this PDF (<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/childcare/pdf/ece-funding-opportunities.pdf>) can be used to invest in worker training, move or expand existing child care centers, and cover the cost of COVID-related sick leave.

New opportunities for funding will be available in the coming year and beyond as the state continues its work to improve Wisconsin's early childhood system. To receive up-to-date information on funding opportunities and other ECE-related news, providers can sign up for the Child Care Listserv at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare>.



Wisconsin Department of  
Children and Families

Funding / Opportunity	Lead Agency	Funding Amount	Funding Uses	Due Date
IRS American Rescue Plan (ARP) Tax Credit for Reimbursement of Paid Sick & Family Leave for Employees due to COVID-19 Including COVID-19 Vaccinations	IRS		The ARP tax credits are available to eligible employers that pay sick and family leave for leave from April 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021.	
Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) Industry Sectors Worker Training Grants	DWD	\$5,000 - \$400,000	The Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) standard grant program will award funds to businesses from all Wisconsin industry sectors that reimburse the costs of customized occupational training for unemployed, underemployed, and incumbent workers. The customized, business-driven training will qualify workers for full-time employment, higher level employment, or increased wages.	October 18, 2021, at 3 p.m. CST
Mainstreet Bounceback Grants	WEDC	\$10,000	The Mainstreet Bounceback Grants provide funding to new or existing businesses and non-profit organizations moving into vacant properties in Wisconsin's downtowns and commercial corridors. Funds can be used to pay leases or mortgages, operational expenses and other business costs related to the newly opened location. The program is open to new or existing businesses opening a new location or expanding operations in a vacant commercial space as of January 1, 2021.	
Workforce Innovation Grants	WEDC	\$250,000 - \$10 million	The goal of this program is to help the regions of Wisconsin solve their most pressing workforce challenges by financially supporting collaborative, sustainable and innovative pandemic-recovery plans. Applications must address a region's most pressing pandemic-related workforce challenge and offer a solution specific to the region's need. These may include, but are not limited to: child care solutions or supportive services; training and/or reskilling initiatives for in-demand jobs; career counseling or coaching services; and access to transit or broadband solutions.	October 25, 2021, at 5 p.m. CST A second round of funding will be announced in 2022.

# Bulletin Board

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

**WMELS A.EL.1** Expresses a wide range of emotions - Uses words and gestures to express more complex emotions

The time to discuss emotions is not in the midst of high emotion. Teaching children to label emotions will serve them well now but also as they move into their teen years (critical that they have the experience of talking about how they feel.)

Using puppets and role playing can be an activity that can be incorporated into daily routines. A puppet can be frustrated at snack because he doesn't like what is being served, the puppet can be happy he is the leader to go outside, the puppet can be sad because someone is out sick.



Pinterest has endless activities to teach preschoolers about emotions but don't forget to also use Pyramid Model emotion cards and resources: [https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/FeelingFaces\\_cards\\_large\\_EN-SP.pdf](https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/FeelingFaces_cards_large_EN-SP.pdf)

To take it a step further and personalize the activity have the children in your class show emotions and take pictures for your very own set of emotion cards.

Submitted by: Beth Tepper, CESA 9



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



## Volunteer Opportunity!

### Help Us Show Gratitude for the Hard Working Child Care Providers

Are you looking for something fun to do with friends and family? Do you need to earn volunteer hours? Do you enjoy being artsy? This volunteer opportunity is a great way to help put a smile on someone's face. Childcaring is collecting homemade thank you cards throughout the year as a thank you to early childhood professionals. **We hope to gather over 300 thank you cards for regulated early childhood professionals in our service area by or before April 1.** Volunteer groups, families, and children of all ages are encouraged to participate!

View all the card making project details:

<https://childcaring.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Childcaringcardproject.pdf>

Contact Childcaring: 715-841-9490; [info@childcaring.org](mailto:info@childcaring.org) for more details and to be added to the volunteer list.

## Care for yourself one small way each day



Take breaks to relax and unwind through yoga, music, gardening, or new hobbies

Find new ways to safely connect with family and friends, get support, and share feelings



Treat yourself to healthy foods and get enough sleep



Take care of your body and get moving to lessen fatigue, anxiety, or sadness



Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
Disaster Distress Hotline: call or text 1-800-985-5990

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

## The Wisconsin Statewide DAP FREE Virtual Summit

featuring special guest **Ann Terrell**  
(NAEYC Governing Board President)

Register Here!

Calling ALL professionals working with the Birth-8 population in Wisconsin (child care, Head Start 4K/4KCA, B-3/Special Education) - you are invited to attend the Wisconsin Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) Summit. This summit is an opportunity to explore, discuss and learn about the updated position statement from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and how it supports access to high quality early learning experiences for all children.

Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners

Questions? Please contact  
Tiffany Swain  
[swain@cesd.wisc.edu](mailto:swain@cesd.wisc.edu)

9:00 - 3:00

**October 14, 2021**

**"In the fall, a soft breeze through the trees turns the leaves into fireworks confetti!"**

- Laura Jaworski

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.

*We would like to wish you and your family  
a happy holiday season. We look forward to  
working with you in the new year*

## 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

Tina Smith

Nancy Vance

## Staff Spotlight

Hello, my name is Shelley Nelson and I work as a Referral and Communications Specialist for Childcaring. I appreciate working for an organization where I can help people, continually learn new things, find out about helpful resources and then share them with others in the community.

I graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a major in Communication and a minor in Technology & New Media Arts. While taking college courses, I also worked at a home child care, in the infant room.

Seeing the babies smile and sharing in the excitement with parents as they talked about their baby's new milestones was such a great experience.

In my role at Childcaring, I help parents search for regulated child care and connect them with early care resources. I also work on a lot of various communication projects to help parents and community members connect and learn about the services we provide (ex: this newsletter, the website, social media, etc.). If you haven't yet, please "Like" our Facebook page 😊. This October marks my 10th year at Childcaring. The time has gone fast and I know I'm having fun!

Outside of work, my husband Andrew and I have a blended family of eight. We are on the go a lot and we enjoy watching the children participate in the various sporting events they love. This year, the children REALLY wanted a puppy and we were excited to get a mini goldendoodle named Curly. She is our little cheerleader and she greets everyone who comes to our house with so much excitement!

**What did you enjoy playing most as a child?** As a young child, and still today, I love being outside! I have many fond memories of building forts, making sand pies in the sandbox with my cousins and riding my bike in the yard. Then, the summer before I started 4th grade I got my first pony, Ginger. From then on, it was many fun hours spent grooming, riding and showing horses!

