



Issue #52

October, November, December 2022



**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:

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

CHILD CARE IN THE NEWS!

Extra, extra... read all about it! Everyone seems to be talking about child care.

Did you have a chance to see the Daycare Dilemma series on WSAW-NewsChannel 7, by Emily Davies? If not, we have the links to each segment saved on our Childcaring website under News & Links. The series began by sharing those working in the child care field can often feel underappreciated for a variety of reasons, including what providers say is a lack of understanding from some parents and society at large about the work they do.



Until we're able to recognize how important child care is in the early years as a community as a society, I think we're going to continue to struggle, Kelly Borchardt said.



The series shared Childcaring data: in our 10-county service area we have lost roughly 3,000 child care spots due to providers closing their businesses (and that does not account for staffing shortages at centers). That makes it challenging for families to find care for their children. While there is no simple solution for this issue, Childcaring offers an opportunity to see if someone would like to build their own business within the early childhood education field with Informational Sessions and Start Up Grants.

The Daycare Dilemma series went on to share information about parents struggling to maintain adequate child care and how quality child care is foundational for a child's future.



Children are not just playing, but being able to articulate how children learn through play and how our environments and the things that we do are very intentional," Gayle Schiszik, Childcaring's provider certifier and pre-licensing technical consultant explained. "We put two telephones in a dramatic play area, not because in the dramatic play area, it's a home and there's a phone in a home right? But we put two because we want children to learn communication and the give and take. So, when we put two phones there, children start to have conversations with each other.



Emily Davies, NewsChannel 7 was there when the secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Emilie Amundson, said child care needs to be seen as a community issue, and it [DCF] committed funding toward that in several communities around the state, with several in the north central region.

As part of the Project Growth initiative through DCF, the Dream Up! Child Care Supply-Building grant program, administered by First Children's Finance, focuses on building child care supply through a collaborative community approach. Within Rounds 1 and 2, twenty-eight cross-sector teams in Wisconsin will receive strategic planning support

(continued on page 3)

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

YOUNGSTAR CORNER

YOUNGSTAR TRANSITION COMING SOON

In November 2021, DCF issued a Request for Proposal for the administration of the YoungStar Quality Rating and Improvement System, as part of the normal contracting cycle. Following extensive evaluation of proposals, DCF will contract with a new administrator, Shine Early Learning. We are currently finalizing the contract. Shine will administer all YoungStar services after completion of a transition period with the current YoungStar administrator, Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA).

Shine Early Learning, SFTA, and DCF are all committed to working together on a smooth transition, with uninterrupted, high-quality YoungStar services. Although transition details are being finalized, it is important for us to communicate the following:

- Onsite consultation visits will continue to be an option within YoungStar for any program that requests it. DCF is committed to ensuring that all programs have access to onsite support now, and in the future.
- SFTA and the Child Care Resource and Referral agencies [i.e. Childcaring] will continue providing:
 - Resources and referrals for families and providers
 - Trainings and technical assistance
 - Support for tribal nations
 - Pre-licensing activities
 - Project Growth activities

Shine Early Learning will be recruiting staff from within Wisconsin to ensure that regional and community knowledge continues within the program.

Once a transition timeline is in place, more detailed information will be shared through DCF's child care listserv, the YoungStar webpages, and stakeholder group meetings.

NEWLY REGULATED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS:

Tamara Gaffey

Family Child Care Provider, Antigo

Kids Club

School Age Center, Owen

Annie Befort, Annie's Daycare

Family Child Care Provider, Merrill

Antigo Child Care Center

Group Child Care Center, Antigo

Rhonda Piotrowski, Rhonda's Little Rainbows

Family Child Care Provider, Mosinee

Kelly Borchardt ~ Executive Director

Micki Krueger ~ Assistant Director

John Jacobs ~ Financial Manager

Kristine Joyce ~ Early Childhood Consultant/Trainer

Andrea Mueller ~ Early Childhood Consultant/Trainer

Lori Shafranski ~ 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

Tara Biebl ~ Resource & Referral Specialist

Sarah Agena ~ Business and Community
Outreach 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
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

WI Family Child Care Providers - "Teacher's Lounge" Facebook Page

"Reaching, connecting, and growing leaders in Family Child Care. A place for Family Child Care providers to connect, collaborate, and support each other and to share the joys and challenges of this amazing profession! This group is intended to provide a 'teacher's lounge' for providers, a diverse, non-judgmental environment for great conversation!"



(continued from page 1)

and \$75,000 in grant funding to evaluate, plan, sustain, and expand existing child care, and support new child care programs. Additional \$5,000 stipends will be allocated to participating child care providers who submit business improvement plans during the strategic planning process. Childcaring staff are participating on each of the Dream Up! teams in our service area: Adams, Lincoln, Marathon, and Taylor Counties. Other communities may be excited to apply for the next round of Dream Up! applications in early 2023.

The Daycare Dilemma series on WSAW-NewsChannel 7 ended in August, reminding us, “It takes a Village”. This segment shared one local partnership that is working and challenged us to think more about how each of our communities can meet the needs of working parents and their children, employers, and child care providers. The advice included: meet with community partners, research government resources, do not be afraid to adapt and make changes, and most of all, ask for help.

We can see the impact of the additional federal child care funds on the child care market from the past federal COVID-19 relief measures. Those investments are working! The industry did not collapse. But the stabilization strategies are temporary. We need to figure out long-term ways to invest in child care as a public good so parents can work, children can learn and those who work in child care can earn sufficient wages to support their own families. This is the time to advocate for long-term investments for early childhood! We encourage you all to get involved in community conversations. Contact Childcaring to learn more about what’s happening in your community!

“ Thank you to Emily Davies and all of those that contributed to the Daycare Dilemma series! ”

Exciting Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Reimbursement Updates!

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federally funded program sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a licensed or certified child care provider, the program provides you with financial reimbursement for serving nutritious meals and snacks to kids in your care.

Reimbursement rates are adjusted annually. This year there was an extra \$0.10 per meal & snack provided by the Keep Kids Fed Act that is included in the published rates.

USDA REIMBURSEMENT RATES

Rates are adjusted annually each July, as required by the statutes and regulations governing CACFP. Here are the annual adjustments effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023:

Rates per meals served in adult day care centers and child care centers

The number of meals served to enrolled participants multiplied by the rates of reimbursement for each meal type. Below are the current reimbursement rates:

	Breakfast	Lunch/Supper	Snack
Non-Needy (N)	\$0.45	\$0.47	\$0.19
Reduced (R)	\$1.91	\$3.63	\$0.64
Free (F)	\$2.21	\$4.03	\$1.18

Family Day Care Homes (FDCH) Meal Reimbursement Base Payment Rates

Keep Kids Fed Act 2022 authorized a Tier 2 FDCH to be considered a Tier 1 FDCH for the purposes of the program. This will provide



Tier 2 homes with Tier 1 meal reimbursement rates only for the time period beginning July 1, 2022 and ending on June 30, 2023.

Tier 1 and Tier 2 reimbursement rates per meal type:

Meal Type	Tier 1	Tier 2
Breakfast	\$1.66	\$1.66
Lunch/Supper	\$3.04	\$3.04
Snack	\$0.97	\$0.97

Provider’s Own Children

Providers may receive meal reimbursement (at Tier 1 rates) for meals served to their own enrolled children, foster children, and/or other residential children only if they are eligible based on their own household size and income (or participation in qualifying Benefits Programs).

If you are a family day care home interested in joining the CACFP, visit www.foodprogramwi.org/

For other questions about this information, contact CNT (608) 267-9129. <https://dpi.wi.gov/community-nutrition/cacfp/pay>

The Department of Public Instruction and Wisconsin Child and Adult Care Food Program



Training Opportunities

Scan this QR code or visit our website 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 wiregistry.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.

Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) Prevention Training for Child Care Providers

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

- November 10, 2022 (12:00 pm-2:00 pm)
- Presented Virtually
- \$15/Register by Sunday, November 6.

Exploring the Third Edition of the Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale, Supporting Program's 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 child care programs for children birth to 3 years.

- 10/27/2022 - 11/9/2022 (Self-paced)
- Register by October 23 / \$20 (includes ITERS-3 book)

CPR with AED

The training will provide participants with Infant, Child, & Adult CPR. Childcaring, Mosinee 6:00pm-9:00pm
\$45 / Book: \$5

- Monday, October 17
- Monday, November 14

Register by calling Childcaring at 715.841.9490

Math Matters – Presented in Hmong

Come explore math concepts and how activities, interactions, and materials provided in the environment allows for children to develop their mathematical thinking skills.

- Saturday, October 22 ~ 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Free (training fee supported with YS Diversity funding)
Childcaring, Mosinee

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

Call or email Kao Lai Xiong for more information: 715-841-9490,
kao@childcaring.org

Free Child Care Foundational Trainings ~ Now Available!

DCF and training instructor partners are pleased to announce that free Child Care Foundational Training is now available. The Child Care Foundational Training courses covers the following noncredit trainings delivered in person or in an interactive online or interactive correspondence format:

- Introduction to the Child Care Profession
- Fundamentals of Infant and Toddler Care
- Fundamentals of Family Child Care
- Skills and Strategies for the Child Care Teacher

Please visit www.wiregistry.org and watch for more information.

Infant Toddler Development Class – 3 credit course.

Mid-State Technical College, Wisconsin Rapids Campus

- October 13, 2022 through December 8, 2022.

- Meet on Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 PM

This class meets the requirements for Infant Toddler Licensing and is a part of the Registry Infant Toddler credential.

This class is included in the MSTC Infant Toddler certificate.

Class Number 64565

Register for class here: <https://www.mstc.edu/registration-and-records/take-class>

Or contact April for more information: april.hartjes@mstc.edu 715-281-1281



WI Afterschool Network:

Marshfield Clinic Health System

Center for Community Health Advancement

Marshfield, WI 54449

Phone: 715-221-8400

Email: wisconsinafterschoolnetwork@marshfieldclinic.org

WCCAA Annual Conference

- Thursday, January 26 – Friday, January 27, 2023

The Ingleside Hotel – Pewaukee, WI

Fellow administrators, directors, owners and champions of the child care industry mark your calendars for the Annual WCCAA Conference. This event will feature essential workshops, important updates and Key Note presentations in two great days dedicated to Administrators, Directors, Teachers and Partners in Early Care & Education!

For more information about Conference Schedule, Vendors, Presenters or Scholarships, please visit: <https://www.wccaa.org/conference>



Marquette County Parent Café

Parent cafés are a fulfilling way for parents to talk, listen, and support each other with stressors, worries and challenges that many have struggled with alone. Parent Cafés help build strong families using The Five Protective Factors.

Monday, September 19th

Westfield Elementary School
329 Hawk Lane, Westfield

Monday, October 17th

Forest Lane Community School
222 Forest Lane, Montello

Monday, November 28th

Forest Lane Community School
222 Forest Lane, Montello

Thanks to a Primary Prevention Grant through the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board, we will again be offering concrete supports each time you attend a cafe.

Free dinner will be available each evening from 5:30-6:00pm
Café 6:00-7:30pm

Limited child care available

We will confirm availability of child care based on the requests we receive.

Registration is required so we can plan appropriately for dinner and child care. Register by scanning the QR code:



For questions or to register by phone, please call Childcaring at 800-628-8534

*Virtual Parent Café sessions will also be offered December 15th, January 12th, and February 16th from 6:30-7:30pm



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MARQUETTE COUNTY

An EEO/AA employer, Extension University of Wisconsin-Madison provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Childcaring is excited to bring Parent Café's to child care programs with funding from the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board's Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds from the Department of Children and Families. The purpose of this funding is to create relationships between CCR&R's/FRC's and regulated child care providers, to support families. Childcaring will work with programs to provide a Parent Café series to their enrolled families. Parent Cafés support parents in building friendships and a strong network of families who help each other stay strong!

If you're interested in hosting a Parent Café series at your program, contact Childcaring for more information.



WISCONSIN REGISTRY

TAKE ADVANTAGE TODAY! Coupon for FREE Registry Membership

A coupon for FREE Registry membership and renewal is now available through funding provided by the Department of Children and Families through the Preschool Development Grant (PDG). When completing your membership application use the coupon code PDG2022

All individuals, who are currently employed at a regulated child care program in Wisconsin AND have their current employer listed on their Registry Profile, are eligible to use the coupon.

The coupon will be available only as funding allows. The Registry will also send future communications regarding the amount of funding available.

https://wiregistry.org/free-membership/#Using_the_Coupon_Code



We're here for you!

**Stay connected with
Childcaring!**

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

Sign up for our Weekly Email List Serve:

<https://childcaring.org/newsletters>

Email: info@childcaring.org, OR give us a call: 1-800-628-8534!

If we can't answer, leave us a message. We'll be sure to get back to you!



October is Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month.

In October and beyond, infant caregivers and service/healthcare providers can join Safe to Sleep® and its partners to encourage safe infant sleep and help raise awareness about ways to reduce the risk of SIDS.

Despite decreases in rates of SIDS and other sleep-related infant deaths, more than one-third of sudden unexpected infant deaths that occur in the United States each year are from SIDS. Research also shows that unsafe sleep areas, such as those that include non-fitted sheets, blankets, or stuffed toys, remain a leading cause of infant death.

Citations

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021). Sudden unexpected infant death and sudden infant death syndrome: Data and statistics. Retrieved June 1, 2021, from <https://www.cdc.gov/sids/data.htm>.
2. Shapiro-Mendoza, C. K., Camperlingo, L., Ludvigsen, R., Cottogim, C., Anderson, R. N., Andrew, T., et al. (2014). Classification system for the Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Case Registry and its application. *Pediatrics*, 134(1), e210–e219. Retrieved May 3, 2021, from <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24913798/>.

Safe to Sleep® Tip

Do not let your baby get too hot during sleep. Dress your baby in sleep clothing, such as a wearable blanket, designed to keep him or her warm without the need for loose blankets in the sleep area.

Learn more about safe infant sleep at <http://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov>



Join the #SafeSleepSnap Activity!

What is #SafeSleepSnap?

This fun social media activity encourages parents and caregivers to share photos of safe infant sleep practices in action.

How do I join #SafeSleepSnap?

Post a photo of a baby in a safe sleep environment with the hashtag #SafeSleepSnap on your social media account. And you're done—it's a snap! Visit <https://bit.ly/SafeSleepSnap> for ideas and tips.

Why should I join #SafeSleepSnap?

Because a picture is worth a thousand words. Sharing pictures of babies in safe sleep environments is a fun way to show ways to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and other sleep-related infant deaths.



Visit the Safe to Sleep® website to learn more about #SafeSleepSnap.
<https://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov/>



Help us to encourage safe infant sleep during Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month and beyond.

Good Start Grants Expanding!

After many years of Scholarship Aid being available for families in Wood County and portions of Clark County, Childcaring will be transitioning that into our current program, Good Start Grants! Good Start Grants (GSG) helps eligible families pay for quality child care. GSG are intended for families under 300% of the federal poverty level, but are not receiving state child care assistance (WI Shares) to pay for child care. GSG pays a portion (up to 65%) of a child's weekly tuition directly to their child care provider.

GSG is currently available in Marathon and Portage Counties, and the Marshfield Area United Way service area. Starting in 2023, GSG will also be available in South Wood County thanks to support from the United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties.

For more information about program applications and guidelines, visit our website at <https://childcaring.org/needhelppaying>. You can also scan the barcode with your smartphone camera. Feel free to reach out to Rachele Johnson, GSG Program Coordinator at rachele@childcaring.org or 715.841.9490.



From a family receiving GSG:

"Today finding great care at a reasonable rate is next to impossible! I do believe childcare providers deserve to be paid very well as they are helping raise our babies but when it comes to paying for daycare it's tough! We had to decide between being a stay at home parent or pay the high rates. GSG allowed us to pick the daycare (we think is the BEST) that we can afford, without having to quit our job to be sole care taker of our child!"

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!



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO ENJOYS HELPING YOUNG CHILDREN?



SCAN ME

If yes, please share this information with them to join us virtually and learn how we can assist them.

Bring Questions like:

What are the benefits of being regulated?

What classes or training do I need to get started?

How much would I charge families?

FREE Virtual Information Session

on Child Care Start Up

Wednesday, November 9 (12:30 – 2:30 pm)

Register by: Friday, November 4 - call Childcaring at

1-800-628-8534 or scan the above QR code.

You may be eligible for a Start Up Grant!



Early Childhood Education Career & Job Exploration Day

Friday, October 28, 2022 from 9:00 am – 1:30 pm

NTC Wausau Campus, 1000 West Campus Drive,
Wausau, WI 54401

If you feel called to the field of early childhood education, are currently working in the field or are a local employer that offers this service, you are invited to this FREE event.

Lunch will be provided!

Registration required. Visit <https://www.ntc.edu/calendar/2022/10/28/early-childhood-education-career-job-exploration-day> or call the NTC Admissions Office at 715.803.1645 and reference the "Early Childhood Education Career and Job Exploration" event.



Child Care Counts: Stabilization Payment Program Round 2

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) has allocated \$351 million in funds for the Child Care Counts: Stabilization Payment Program to support Wisconsin's early care and education community. The Stabilization Payment Program Round 2 is a nine-month payment program that runs August 2022 through April 2023. It will be followed by an additional nine-month payment program, with the renewal application opening in May 2023. Once approved for payments, eligible providers may continue to receive ongoing monthly payments, providing the financial stability they need to stay open, to recruit and retain qualified staff, and to continue providing high-quality care for children.

These funds will be distributed through two programs targeting the challenges early care and education providers are facing.

Details about each program can be found at:

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

If you need any assistance, please send an email to: DCFDECECOVID19CCPayments@wisconsin.gov. If you are unable to email, you may call and leave your detailed questions at: 608-535-3650. Call Center hours are 8 am - 4:30 pm M-F. When contacting the call center, please include your name, facility name, provider number, and detailed question.

Please note – email is recommended for a faster response.

Do you wish you had more time? More resources?

A dedicated team gathering the latest updates to help your ECE business thrive? The Wisconsin Early Education Shared Services Network (WEESSN) brings together family and center-based early care and education programs to pool resources and a network of supports. By sharing resources, knowledge, and expertise, child care programs can save time and money. Being a part of a Network allows you to be BIG where big is important (purchasing and resources sharing) while still staying small, where small is everything - - providing care and education within your community, the way you know best. Read about WEESSN's at: <https://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/weessn>



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.

2022 Childcaring Board of Directors

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Staff Spotlight

Hello! I'm Micki Krueger, the Assistant Director at Childcaring. Would you believe that I've worked in child care resource and referral for 22 years?! After graduating with my Early Childhood Associates Degree, I began working at Child Care Connection (CCC) as the Referral Specialist. Some of you may remember that CCC was located in Wausau and Merrill areas and served our four northern counties since 1993, before merging and becoming Childcaring in 2014, and then serving 10 counties in central Wisconsin! Oh, how times have changed!

One of my most proud accomplishments is starting the Good Start Grants program. That initiative slowly began around 2011 and was fully implemented in 2014. Since then, the GSG program has distributed over \$2.6 million dollars to help eligible families pay for quality child care!

I was born and raised in Merrill and still live there with my husband and two children. Our daughter is a sophomore and our son is in 5th grade. They keep us busy with dance and bowling, and we enjoy camping together in the summer. Even as a little girl, I knew I wanted to be a mom, often playing "house" with my cousins. Being a mom is my most important job!

I love all the opportunities I have had over the years working for this nonprofit agency, especially all the new friendships I've made. I enjoy working with my coworkers and appreciate all the hard work of every child care provider. I will forever and always advocate for the work you do!

