



**Issue #55**

**July, August, September 2023**



**850 State Hwy. 153, Ste F  
Mosinee | WI 54455**

(Across from Central WI Airport,  
Baymen Professional Building)

**715.841.9490  
1.800.628.8534**



**www.childcarings.org  
info@childcarings.org**

#### 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

### DCF Secretary Amundson visits Childcarings Office

*May 11, 2023 was a busy day at Childcarings.*

The morning started with our Certifier/Pre Licensing Consultant, Gayle Schiszik on a LIVE Facebook Forum, hosted by Supporting Families Together Association. The event focused on how local CCR&Rs can assist individuals with starting a child care program.

Our office began getting very busy with Child Care Center Directors throughout our service area coming to join the Director Cohort Reunion. The positive energy and excitement were welcomed with hugs and laughter! Childcarings' Early Childhood Consultants, Lori Shafanski and Kristine Joyce began the Cohort and facilitated the discussion.

Secretary Amundson arrived and was greeted by our Directors, Kelly Borchardt and Micki Krueger. During the office tour, the Secretary met several Childcarings staff members and learned more about a few Childcarings services: child care referrals to families; Good Start Grants; Partner Up; start up sessions and grants; bilingual services to our Hmong-speaking community; LENA Grow in child care programs; and Parent Cafes.

Before the Director Cohort ended, Secretary Amundson joined the group of directors. She expressed her sincere gratitude for the work they do and empathized with their struggles. Child Care Counts was discussed in detail as Directors shared feelings of concern and fear if the funding expires. Local media channels interviewed the Secretary and a child care director. Before the directors departed, they enjoyed lunch together and were showered with donated gifts of appreciation in honor of Child Care Provider Appreciation Day on May 12.

While the hustle and bustle of the Secretary's visit and the Cohort ended, a virtual, Child Care Start Up Session began. Gayle and Rachele Johnson, Program Coordinator, presented information to participants that were interested in learning more about providing child care.

The preparation began for the evening activities. Kristine and Tracy Verjinsky, Childcarings Program Coordinator, were heading out for a Parent Café. Families gathered to enjoy dinner together. After dinner, the children transitioned to a separate area and enjoyed developmentally appropriate activities while the parents discussed various questions in small groups. Back at the office, Kelly, Micki, Rachele, and John Jacobs (Childcarings' Financial Manager) greeted community members during the Mosinee Chamber Business After Hours event. Valuable connections were made while familiar struggles were shared by parents looking for child care and businesses in desperate need for employees.



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

## NEWLY REGULATED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS:

**Bright Beginnings, Ashley Bauer**  
Certified Family Provider, Rothschild

**Tender Hearts Precious Moments, Delaurie Sukow**  
Certified Family Provider, Merrill

**Little Smiles Childcare, Miranda Otba**  
Licensed Family Provider, Wausau

**Little Wildflowers Child Care Center LLC**  
Licensed Group Center, Owen

**Ms. Barb's House, Barbara Gagnon**  
Licensed Family Provider, Antigo

**June's Sweet Bees Childcare, Michelle Hoffman**  
Licensed Family Provider, Dorchester

**Green Circle Trail Daycare, Tara McQuillin**  
Certified Family Provider, Stevens Point

**Antigo Child Care Center – School Age Program**  
Licensed Group Center, Antigo

## 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



# LENA GROW™

Seven teachers, from three classrooms at Little Scholars in Wausau participated in LENA Grow and became LENA certified teachers! Once a week, for 10 weeks, children in care would wear LENA vests and devices (permission was obtained from parents). This day was called the LENA day. The devices act as a "talk pedometer" and counted adult words, child words, and conversational turns between the two. This data is used to create a weekly report for the classroom. Each week, after the LENA day, the teachers in each classroom met with a LENA Coach to review their classroom data, create a goal for the following week and learn about ways to increase conversational turns during a certain time of day. Teachers also shared tips to increase conversational turns with parents. To become a LENA Certified teacher, the teachers needed to be present for all 10 LENA days and coaching sessions, as well as create a goal to work towards each week. At the end of the program, teachers noted that they were "making a more conscious effort every day to ask more questions," and "encouraging children to use their words." In total, for all three classrooms, in just 10 days, over 2 million adult words were spoken, and over 60,000 conversational turns took place!

Thanks to our partnership with Hmong American Center and WI Institute for Public Policy and Service (WI Dept. of Administration Advancing Equitable Recovery Through Early Childhood Language Nutrition grant) since September 2022, Childcaring has provided LENA Coaching in Marathon County to four different programs; 27 teachers, 13 classrooms, and 124 children! Other funders contributing to the launch of LENA Grow in Marathon County were Impact100 of Greater Wausau and Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin.

If you're interested in hearing more about the LENA Grow program and how it can help to increase interactive talk for the children in your care and hands-on professional development for teachers, contact us at Childcaring!



At Childcaring's May Board of Directors meeting, the board unanimously approved Childcaring to pursue Family Resource Center membership through Supporting Families Together Association. While Childcaring maintains membership as a child care resource and referral agency (CCRR), this additional membership will allow us to have access to more resources and funding to offer additional family support services.

## CHILDCARING SERVICES FLYER:

**Please consider posting the flyer included with this newsletter at your program or organization. Feel free to make copies as needed or contact Childcaring for additional flyers; we also have our agency brochure available.**



### 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!"





# 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.

### STEAM'N – Summer Edition - Presented Virtually

Let's have some spectacular summer fun with activities that spark curiosity, imagination, and discovery! This session will offer a variety of activities you can do with children around science, technology, engineering, the arts, math, and nature ~ all around a summer theme!

- Tuesday, July 18 ~ 6:15 pm - 8:15 pm
- \$15 / Register by July 16
- <https://tinyurl.com/5n8w58vx>

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

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

- Thursday, July 20 ~ 12:00 pm-2:00 pm
- Register by July 16th / \$15
- <https://tinyurl.com/yvb7e5yp>

### Infants/Toddlers and the Natural World – In Person

*(If low enrollment, training maybe moved virtually)*

Associated Bank, 5597 US-10, Stevens Point

Taking babies outside offers many benefits on all areas of their development and the earlier they get used to being outside, the sooner their love for nature will develop. Let's explore hand sensory and movement experiences that help them make sense of the world and develop key connections in their brain. Come with ideas of what to do with infants/toddlers outside along with your concerns and needs.

- Tuesday, September 19 ~ 6:15 pm – 8:15 pm
- \$15 / Register by September 17
- <https://tinyurl.com/ms2ewamn>

### Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education 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.

- September 14 -20 (Self-paced)
- Register by September 10/ \$20
- <https://tinyurl.com/yu76r7t3>

### WMELS and Our Natural World – In Person

*(If low enrollment, training maybe moved virtually)*

NTC, 1000 West Campus Dr., Wausau ~ Room A167

Children love to be outside. They love to play with sticks and rocks and boxes. How can teachers intentionally plan using natural materials to support each child's individual growth and development, even in an urban setting? Asphalt and gravel? No worries! Together we'll find ways to weave nature into your daily curriculum, both indoors and out. We'll link natural materials to support growth in each WMELS domain. Focus is primarily for teachers of older toddlers and preschool, and who are familiar with the 5 WMELS domains.

- Tuesday, October 17 ~ 6:15 pm - 8:15 pm
- \$15 / Register by October 15
- <https://tinyurl.com/3s4cbxbv>

### Brain Development 101 – Presented Virtually

How can rocking and singing to a baby buffer her brain from stressful events? Why does an anxious adult imprint the tendency to be withdrawn or fearful child? The human brain gets wired through experiences. Experiential input leaves chemical markers on our DNA, resulting in physical changes on a genetic level. Come learn some fascinating ways you make a difference in each child's life.

- Tuesday, November 21 ~ 6:15 pm - 8:15 pm
- \$15 / Register by November 19
- <https://tinyurl.com/y5t99j39>

### AHA CPR w/ AED

Childcaring, 850 State Hwy 153, Ste F, Mosinee

The American Heart Association Heartsaver CPR w/ AED course trains participants to give CPR, and use an automated external defibrillator (AED) in a safe, timely, and effective manner for Infant, Child, and Adult. One Heartsaver® CPR AED Student Workbook (2020) is needed per program and can be purchased through Childcaring for \$5. All classes are 6:00-9:00 pm.

- Monday August 28th
- Monday, September 18th
- Monday October 9th
- Monday November 13th
- Monday December 11th
- \$45 / Contact Childcaring to register.

**weca** Wisconsin Early Childhood Association

**Save the Date: 2023 WECA Conference!** Mark your calendars for October 19-21, 2023, at the Marriott in Middleton, Wis.

**If you or your staff need Foundational Training, please contact our office. If Childcaring does not have a scheduled opportunity, we can potentially connect you with one of our partners.**

- 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



### FREE Wisconsin 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). Visit <https://wiregistry.org/free-membership/> for more information.

Childcaring is supported in part by:



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

## Vision

Every Child Is Prepared To Thrive



## 2023 Childcaring Board of Directors

Barry West, President  
Tina Smith, Vice President  
Michelle Rantala, Treasurer  
Joan Krohn, Secretary  
Annett Mooney • Jackie Carattini  
Brittany Mews • Joseph Greget  
Tara Guelzow • Lynda Fernholz

Childcaring is dedicated to providing quality child care information, and partnering with parents, care providers, business leaders, and community organizations to make quality care available to Central Wisconsin families.

- Serving as a resource to potential and existing, regulated child care providers
- Helping families locate child care to meet their needs
- Working cooperatively with community partners to increase the supply of quality, affordable care

## Childcaring Staff

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

## Do you know someone who enjoys helping young children?

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?*

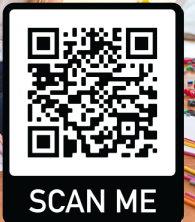
FREE Virtual Information Sessions on Child Care Start Up

**Thursday, July 27 ~ 12:30pm-2:30pm**(register by: July 21)

**Wednesday, September 20 ~ 6:30pm-8:30pm**(register by: September 15)

Call Childcaring at 1-800-628-8534 or scan this QR code.

**You may be eligible for a Start Up Grant!**



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