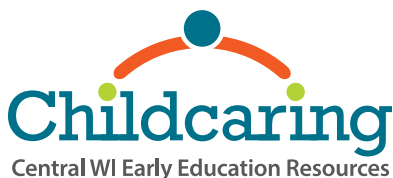


Issue #61

January, February, March 2025



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.childcaring.org  
info@childcaring.org

#### Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm  
Limited Office Coverage M-Th  
Additional office hours available  
by appointment.

#### Our Mission

Childcaring supports quality early  
childhood education and care  
by empowering a community of  
individuals who care for and  
nurture children.

## The Resource Connection

### Childcaring Secures ARPA Funding to Strengthen Early Childhood Support

Childcaring is proud to announce its recent partnerships and funding initiatives supported by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Signed into law in 2021, ARPA provides crucial funding to address the health and wellness needs of communities impacted by the pandemic.

In collaboration with **Clark** and **Langlade** County health departments, Childcaring has introduced Calming Areas in child care settings. These dedicated spaces within group center classrooms and family child care homes help children manage their emotions, offering tools and techniques to self-regulate without leaving the environment. This innovative approach equips children with lifelong emotional management skills.

"Child care centers are valuable assets in our communities," said Brittany Mews, Clark County Health Officer/Director. "When the Clark County Health Dept. had an opportunity to support local child care centers, we eagerly pursued this collaboration to ensure the well-being of our youngest learners."

Childcaring is also partnering with Marathon and Wood Counties to address critical child care shortages.

- **Marathon County:** With \$200,000 in funding over two years, Childcaring will provide free foundational training for up to 15 new child care professionals annually, alongside \$5,000 employer stipends. These efforts aim to create additional child care slots, helping families maintain employment and boosting the local economy.

- **Wood County:** The board has approved a \$402,000 allocation to Wood County Health Department (WCHD) to support child care initiatives. WCHD will subcontract with Childcaring to provide one-time startup and expansion grants to rebuild child care capacity. Funding includes up to \$100,000 for new or expanding group centers, \$10,000 for new family providers, and \$5,000 for certified providers seeking licensure. Additional funding will support a shared services network to enhance efficiency and collaboration among child care providers.

Over the next two years, Childcaring will work closely with community leaders to implement these initiatives, fostering growth and resilience within the child care sector.

These investments not only support child care providers but also strengthen the foundation for thriving families and a robust local economy. We sincerely applaud and admire the efforts of the many individuals who serve on the local child care coalitions in these communities!

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

# CONGRATULATIONS!

## NEWLY REGULATED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS:

Antigo Child Care, Inc., Abigayle Arrowood  
Licensed Group Center, Antigo

### 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!"



### Understand the Weather

#### Wind-Chill



- 30° is *chilly* and may be *uncomfortable*
- 15° to 30° is *cold*
- 0° to 15° is *very cold*
- -20° to 0° is *bitter cold* with significant risk of *frostbite*
- -20° to -60° is *extreme cold* and *frostbite* is likely

### Child Care Weather Watch Wisconsin

Wind-Chill Factor Chart (in Fahrenheit)										
Air Temperature	Wind Speed in mph									
	Calm	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	
40	40	36	34	32	30	29	28	28	27	
30	30	26	21	19	17	16	15	14	13	
20	20	13	9	6	4	3	1	0	-1	
10	10	1	-4	-7	-9	-11	-12	-14	-15	
0	0	-11	-16	-19	-22	-24	-26	-27	-29	
-10	-10	-22	-28	-32	-35	-37	-39	-41	-43	

Comfortable for out door play      Caution      Danger

### New training format!

Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA) and Child Care Resource & Referral (CCRR) Partners have created a new training format to help meet training needs! Self-Paced, E-Learning is a new on-demand format through ECE Explorer. Participants will work at their own pace to complete courses within the set timeframe. Check out the *\*NEW\** Keeping Kids Safe Training on the next page!

### Are you familiar with the QUEST Grant?

Through the Department of Labor, the QUEST grant was issued with the intent of creating more child care slots and helping struggling centers to remain operational. The main goals are:

- **Certified and Licensed Family Care**- New Start Ups, Retention, or Transition to Licensed (Up to \$5000 in supportive services such as safety supplies, indoor and outdoor play equipment, highchairs, cribs, fingerprint and pet fees, radon remediation, fencing)
- **Staff Training**- including child care foundational courses, continuing education hours, certificates, technical diplomas, associate degrees, director's admin certificate- individual staff must apply (tuition and support including books, supplies, mileage reimbursement to class)
- **Disaster Relief Employment (DRE)**- 100% wage and fringe reimbursement for new hire (any position) until 9/30/2025 or funding is exhausted (need to refer to QUEST before job offer and preferably 2 weeks before intended start date). This opportunity is available when center is struggling to remain operational due to lack of staff or budget crisis.

As it is federal funding, there is an application and eligibility requirements. To start the process, scan the QR code and a Career Planner will reach out. If you have questions, contact: Amy Hoppa, QUEST Grant Coordinator at [ahoppa@ncwwdb.org](mailto:ahoppa@ncwwdb.org) or 715.343.4330.



### Provider Support / Advocate Groups

Adams, Clark, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marquette & Waushara County:  
Contact *Childcaring* at 800-628-8534 if you're interested in developing an advocate group.

#### Portage County:

Mary Olson at 715-344-1985 or [molson65@live.net](mailto:molson65@live.net)  
Portage County Leaders:  
Becky Helf at 715-346-4370 or [bhelf@uwsp.edu](mailto:bhelf@uwsp.edu)

**Taylor County:** Meet the 3rd Monday of month  
Kelly Emmerich at 715-465-0993 or [kcemmerich03@gmail.com](mailto:kcemmerich03@gmail.com)

#### Wood County:

Marshfield Area Child Care Association  
Deb Decker 715-898-2220 or [marshfieldshiningstars@gmail.com](mailto:marshfieldshiningstars@gmail.com)

### Speak Up for Wisconsin's Families and Early Childhood Professionals!

State legislators are setting priorities for the next budget, and your voice matters! Without action, more child care programs could shut down, parents may leave the workforce, businesses will face greater staffing challenges, and affordable child care will remain out of reach for many. We're dedicated to raising awareness about the urgent need for public investments in family support services and the early care and education system. Investing in our youngest community members leads to lasting benefits for everyone!

Need resources or advocacy tools? Reach out to Childcaring for support.



### ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

**Advocacy Mission:** Safe and healthy children benefiting from strong, integrated systems that facilitate the relationships, support, and opportunities they need to reach their highest potential.

**2024-2025 Focus:** **Strengthen and leverage existing Wisconsin infrastructure** to better respond to the priority needs of families and early care and education providers.

**Priority Need:** **Reduce financial uncertainty and caregiving stress** for parents and early care and education providers, which is **preventing children from being able to access safe, quality early care and education**. Safe and quality early care and education is critical for healthy brain development, which is linked to positive long-term outcomes for the individual and society related to: education/workforce performance, health, and public safety.

#### Increase Access to Supports for Family and Child Wellbeing



**Increase the impact of the Family Resource Center Network** by facilitating the delivery of a larger volume of more diverse supports that strengthen all families and prevent child abuse/neglect

**Expand programing that supports children's mental health and development of non-cognitive skills** through the Family Resource Center Network and Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health

**Bolster the Child Care Resource & Referral Network** to increase recruitment of child care providers, deliver/coordinate quality training and individualized coaching services. Enhance customized assistance to connect families with available child care options and other human services.

#### Increase Access to Safe, Quality Early Care and Education

Invest in sustainable solutions to **expand the workforce and make child care affordable for families**, such as **Child Care Counts**







# 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 with Mandated Reporter – Presented Virtually

Gain awareness of AHT, its adverse consequences and how it is preventable. This training includes Mandated Reporter which meets the licensing requirement of child abuse & neglect.

- February 6th – 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM
- \$20 / Register by February 2nd
- <https://tinyurl.com/2wer8aub>

### Child Care Foundational Trainings (CCFT) Revised 2024

**Skills & Strategies for the Early Child Care Teacher (50 hours) – Blended Format**  
In addition to face-to-face sessions, learners will complete web-based work outside of class time using the WI Registry Learning Management System (LMS)

- Required (virtual) sessions held on January 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, and February 5th
- 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- \$50 / Register by January 5th / <https://tinyurl.com/5n7zf6jb>

### Fundamentals of Infant & Toddler Care (50 hours) – Blended Format

In addition to face-to-face sessions, learners will complete web-based work outside of class time using the WI Registry Learning Management System (LMS)

- Required (virtual) sessions held on January 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, and February 6th
- 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM
- \$50 / Register by January 5th / <https://tinyurl.com/bdh6twn4>

### Introduction to the Child Care Profession (50 hours) – In Person / Virtually

In addition to face-to-face sessions, learners will also utilize ECE Explorer (online platform) to complete homework outside of class time.

- Required (in person) sessions are held on February 13th and April 17th
- 8:30 AM – 2:20 PM at the Childcaring Office in Mosinee
- Required (virtual) sessions are held on February 20th & 27th, March 6th, 13th, & 20th, April 3rd & 10th
- 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM
- \$50 / Register by February 9th / <https://tinyurl.com/5r63zmtw>

### Keeping Kids Safe – Self Paced, E-Learning \*NEW\*

Self Paced, E-Learning is available through ECE Explorer. Participants will work at their own pace to complete this course within the set timeframe.

This course includes Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) Prevention Training, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Risk Reduction Training, and Mandated Child Abuse and Neglect Reporter Training. Each of these trainings meets the requirements for child care providers to work in a regulated program.

- January 1st – January 31st
  - \$15 / Registration open now - January 31st / <https://tinyurl.com/bdzk8jhy>
- February 1st – February 28th
  - \$15 / Registration opens Jan 20 – February 28th / <https://tinyurl.com/twemwr5k>
- March 1st – March 31st
  - \$15 / Registration opens February 17 – March 31st / <https://tinyurl.com/h53zku3>

### Pediatric First Aid & CPR w/ AED – In Person \*NEW\*

This course trains participants how to respond to and manage illnesses and injuries in a child or infant in the first few minutes until professional help arrives. Training also includes CPR, and use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) in a safe, timely, and effective manner for Infant, Child, and Adult.

Classes are held at the Childcaring Office in Mosinee.

Cost: \$55 (One Heartsaver® Pediatric First Aid CPR AED Workbook is needed per program and can be purchased through Childcaring for \$5).

- January 25th - 9:30am-2:30pm
  - Register by Jan 22 / <https://tinyurl.com/4bhjxz8e>
- February 24th & 25th - 6:00pm-8:30pm (must attend both)
  - Register by February 23rd / <https://tinyurl.com/5865ym2c>
- March 15th - 9:30am-2:30pm
  - Register by March 12th / <https://tinyurl.com/4u2exhy3>

### Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards – In Person

This training will provide participants with an opportunity to explore the WMELS standards so that they will be able to use them to build a foundation for high quality care and education for ALL children from birth to the beginning of first grade.

- Saturday, January 18th and Saturday, January 25th (must attend both)
- 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
- Trinity Merrill Lutheran Church, 107 N State Street, Merrill
- \$45 / Register by January 12th / <https://tinyurl.com/4w65pf5n>

## 2025 Early Childhood Educators Conference

- Saturday, March 8 | 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Location: Northcentral Technical College – Wausau Campus

Join us for a day of inspiration, learning, and fun! The conference features author, singer, educator, Stuart Stotts and a breakout session with Stacy Stenz, "Understanding the Developing Brain." Enjoy music, laughing, and engaging activities designed to energize and connect educators.

For the best experience, we encourage in-person attendance.

### Early Bird Registration:

- Register by February 14 for just \$30!
- Limited scholarship funding is available – up to \$15 reimbursement.

Learn more and register today at the link or QR Code:

[www.ntc.edu/calendar/2025/03/08/2025-early-childhood-educators-conference](http://www.ntc.edu/calendar/2025/03/08/2025-early-childhood-educators-conference)

If you need assistance,  
please contact NTC at:  
[ce@ntc.edu](mailto:ce@ntc.edu)  
or 715-803-1243





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

## 2025 Childcaring Board of Directors

Barry West, President  
Tina Smith, Vice President  
John Kaprelian, Treasurer  
Brittany Mews, Secretary

Annett Eckes  
Tara Guelzow  
Lynda Fernholz  
Angie Close  
Sarah Sturm  
Suzanne Stanley

*Childcaring Board and Staff Members would like to recognize and pay tribute to the loss of Jackie Carattini. Jackie served as a dedicated Childcaring Board Member since January 2023 and collaborated with the agency on numerous occasions prior to joining the board.*

*We extend our heartfelt condolences to Jackie's family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing her. She will always be remembered with gratitude and respect.*

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



### DO YOU...

- ☒ ENJOY WORKING WITH YOUNG CHILDREN?
- ☒ WANT TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS AND WORK FROM HOME?

### ATTEND A **FREE** VIRTUAL INFORMATIONAL START-UP MEETING!

Information will be shared on screen. To achieve an optimal experience, reliable internet and technology, including video and audio is needed.



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 16TH**  
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM ~ Register by Jan 12

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH**  
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM ~ Register by Feb 16

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12**  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM ~ Register by Mar 9

TO REGISTER [CLICK HERE](#)  
OR SCAN THE QR CODE:



An email will be sent prior to the start date that will include resources, information, and a link to log in for the meeting. If you do not receive an email, check your spam email and then contact Childcaring.

LEARN MORE ABOUT:

- \* GRANTS
- \* TYPES OF CARE
- \* RESOURCES
- \* SUPPORT THROUGH THE START UP PROCESS



850 State Hwy 153, STE F / Mosinee, WI 54455  
info@childcaring.org / www.childcaring.org / 1.800.628.8534

Supported by the WI Department of Children and Families (DCF) through Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA) & Other Miscellaneous Sources.