

# THE RESOURCE CONNECTION

Issue # 3: July, August, September, 2010

Your Regional Child Care Resource & Referral Newsletter



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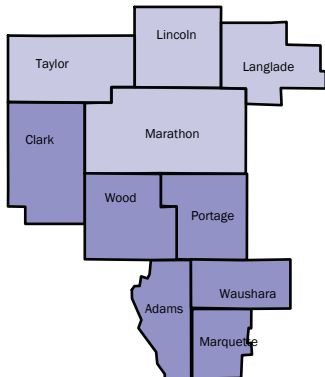
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Child Care Resource and Referral agencies are proposing to raise the level of quality in area child care programs. Children who participate in quality early childhood programs have a better chance at success in life compared to those who do not. One way in which to raise the level of quality among child care programs is to implement a quality improvement rating system. Wisconsin has just approved a system called YoungStar which would include a five-star rating scale.

(See <http://www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/default.htm> for details).

The development and implementation of the YoungStar Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) in Wisconsin is primarily driving the need for a local Together Quality Grows/ECERS Quality Improvement program in our area. There are over 9,000 regulated child care providers in Wisconsin, who are hard-working, committed caregivers who provide a safe and healthy environment for children while their parents are at work. Less than 5% of these providers are choosing to meet higher standards of care through national accreditation (without a current QRIS in Wisconsin we would look to which programs choose to become nationally accredited as one measure of quality).

Regardless if the system is fully implemented on a state-wide basis, CCR&Rs are grateful for the opportunity to increase the child care quality in Central Wisconsin through local quality initiatives. Meeting the basic health and safety standards with regulation is simply not enough to influence quality.

Quality improvement rating systems models, like YoungStar, commonly have a building block or points approach in which certain quality requirements must be met in order to demonstrate progress in quality improvement. Regulatory compliance, staff qualifications, accreditation, environmental ratings, learning standards, child development, learning environments, curriculum, and professional/business practices are all strong indicators of quality.

Fortunately, there are assessment tools and technical consulting strategies that are designed to specifically and comprehensively respond to quality improvement needs in early care and education settings in an objective and culturally sensitive way.

These tools are research-based as well as nationally recognized observation tools. Areas assessed include: environment, staff/child interactions, staff/parent interaction and curriculum. For more information on the Environment Rating Scales, visit

<http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~ecers/>

We are pleased to announce the area child care programs who have been selected to participate in our local quality initiatives, the Together Quality Grows and Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS) Quality Improvement programs!

Bows and Britches Childcare, Marshfield	Bizzy Bee's Child Care Center, Nekoosa
Children in Bloom, Merrill	Country Kids Playhouse, Wisconsin Rapids
Happy Hearts Daycare, Plainfield	Tootsie Bear Day Care, Wisconsin Rapids
Rudolph's Little Dears Child Care Center, Rudolph	Sandbox Child Care & Preschool, Medford

Funding for this program has been secured through the WI Department of Children and Families (through Supporting Families Together Association) and the Community Foundation of Greater South Wood County. Participating child care programs will work with highly-skilled consultants who will observe and score in child care classrooms or homes and provide enhanced technical assistance to child care staff using the Environment Rating Scales.



# BULLETIN BOARD

## Born Learning Trails

(a United Way Emerging Leaders Community Project)

The Born Learning Trail is an interactive, playful and visible community engagement tool to promote early childhood education.

It captures 10 fun outdoor games on engaging signs to help parents and caregivers create learning opportunities for young children.

### Locations

On June 5, 2010, the Born Learning Trails were installed at Three "M" Park in Wausau and Machmueller Park in Weston.

For more information, contact United Way of Marathon County at 715-848-2927.

### Welcome to CCR&R of Central Wisconsin Tracy Verjinsky!

Before coming to CCR&R, I've worked in childcare centers for 12 years both as a teacher and administrator. I earned my BS degree in Family and Consumer Education from UWSP. I live in Wisconsin Rapids with my husband and my daughter who recently graduated from Kindergarten.

I am excited to be here working with both parents and providers.

### "8 Rules of Toddler Play"...



1. If I like it, it's mine.
2. If it's in my hand, it's mine.
3. If I can take it from you, it's mine.
4. If I had it a little time ago, it's mine.
5. If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours in any way, shape, or form.
6. If I'm doing or building something, all the pieces are mine.
7. If it looks like mine, it's mine.
8. If I think it's mine, it's mine.

Taken from, *The Baby Whisperer Solves All Your Problems*, (New York: Atria Books, 2005), Tracy Hogg and Melinda Blau

## What are the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (WMELS)?



The Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards specify developmental expectations for children from birth through entrance to first grade. The standards reflect attention to all the domains of a child's learning and development. Each domain is divided into sub-domains. Each sub-domain includes developmental expectations, program standards, performance standards and developmental continuum. Samples of children's behavior and adult strategies are also provided.

### Why have model early learning standards?

Based on research and supported by evidence-based practices, the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards provide a framework for families, professionals and policy makers to:

- Share a common language and responsibility for the well-being of children from birth to first grade;
- Know and understand developmental expectations of young children;
- Understand the connection among the foundations of early childhood, K-12 educational experiences, and lifelong learning.



Start early. Start smart. Start here.

YoungStar was passed on Wednesday, June 23rd. To begin with, training and technical assistance will be targeted to 12 counties in WI: ten that have the greatest number of WI Shares providers, and two that have a total population under 17,000. In this region, Marathon and Wood Counties were selected. We'll do our best to keep you up-to-date and informed about the program. <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/>



The **Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL)** is focused on promoting the social emotional development and school readiness of young children birth to age 5. CSEFEL is a national resource center funded by the Office of Head Start and Child Care Bureau for disseminating research and evidence-based practices to

early childhood programs across the country.

### Resources: Practical Strategies for Teachers/Caregivers

- Scripted Stories for Social Situations
- Tools for Working on "Building Relationships"
- Book List
- Book Nook
- Teaching Social Emotional Skills
- Tools for Developing Behavior Support Plans

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/resources/strategies.html>

# PROVIDER TRAINING

## **Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards** (WMELS)

Monday Evenings  
September 13th through October 11th, 2010  
6:00-9:00 PM (15 hrs cont. ed.)

At Christ Lutheran Church, Marshfield

*\*10 lucky participants will receive "walk throughs" after the training!!*

Cost: \$30 (includes 2nd Edition WMELS book)

For more information call CCR&RCW at 800.628.8534

## **"Making Sound Judgments in Difficult Situations without Being Judgmental"**

Presented by: Lilly Ivrin-Vitela, Executive Director SFTA

Thursday, September 23rd 6:30-8:30 pm  
MSTC, WI Rapids

To register, call CCR&RCW at 800.628.8534 or email  
[ccrcw@tznet.com](mailto:ccrcw@tznet.com)

*Leadership and integrity in workplace interactions require each of us, regardless of our role in an organization, to make ethical decisions or judgments. Making judgments does not require us to be judgmental. The line between judgments and being judgmental can get blurry and thin in challenging situations. If you've ever had a hard time distinguishing a person from their behavior or seen a professional decision be taken personally, then you know, that's when conflict is destructive. If you want more positive relationships and outcomes to conflicts, then this workshop is for you.*

### **Provider Support / Advocate Groups**

#### **Adams County**

Adams County Early Childhood Education Council- Kelly Allen at 608.339.2868

#### **Clark County & Marquette County**

Contact CCR&R 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- RoxAnne Forrest at 715.342.2999

#### **Waushara County**

Contact Krista Sobieski at 920.566.0545

#### **Wood County**

Marshfield Area Child Care Association- Krisann Mauritz at 715.387.2218

Wisconsin Rapids Child Care Advocates Council- Kitty Gross at 715.421.1092

Q-Net (Quality Networking for Early Childhood Professionals)  
Training: Early Literacy

Thursday, September 9, 5:30 – 8:00pm  
Neillsville

Cost: \$5 (includes light dinner)

To register, call or e-mail CCR&RCW  
(Seven additional trainings will be offered (throughout 2010-2011))

## **Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Training**

Monday July 26th at

St Joseph Early Childhood Center, Stevens Point  
OR

Wednesday, September 8th at  
CCR&RCW, WI Rapids

**Both classes are from 6:00-7:30 PM**

Cost: \$15 (Pre-registration is required).

Contact CCR&RCW for more information at  
800.628.8534

## **Preschool Credential Capstone** (Accelerated)

Mid-State Technical College, RM E-118  
WI-Rapids

*Classes meet on Thursday evenings between  
September 9th and December 16th.*

*Questions, contact Pat Markuson at  
715.423.9298*

8th Annual

## **Leading the Way Conference for Early Childhood Professionals**

Saturday September 25th, 2010  
8:00am-4:00pm

UW-Stevens Point

*Featured keynote speaker:  
Pam Boulton, UW-Milwaukee*

Watch your mail and e-mail for more information

# PROVIDER TRAINING

## Heartsaver CPR Training w/ AED

**Monday, September 20th, 6:00pm-9:30pm**

Location: YWCA, 613 5th St. Wausau

**Monday, October 25th, 6:00-9:30pm**

Location: CCC, 407 W Main St. Merrill

**Cost: \$45 per person** (includes workbook & CPR card)

Each program is required to purchase one Heartsaver CPR/AED workbook. You will be asked to complete the Review Questions, found in the book, prior to class.

*Group Centers that have 8 staff needing training, contact CCC—the instructor may be able to come to your center. (Mileage rates may apply)*

**Register—(deadline is one week before each class) call CCC at 715.539.9779.**

*(CCC cannot be held accountable for lost or stolen CPR cards)*

Additional CPR classes are held through American Red Cross.

For more information, contact the appropriate agency:

Marshfield: 715.387.0235 ~ WI Rapids: 715.423.7360 ~  
Stevens Point: 715.344.4052



Well-trained caregivers make a positive, lifelong contribution to the growth and development of children.



**Northcentral Technical College**  
Early Childhood Continuing Education Opportunities

**Visit NTC's website for information about Fall 2010 ECE Courses!**

**[www.ntc.edu](http://www.ntc.edu)**

(Most classes available ITV, call NTC for more information)

(ITV Campuses: Antigo, Medford, Phillips, Spencer, & Wittenberg)

**REGISTER** online at [www.ntc.edu/wls/register](http://www.ntc.edu/wls/register) or by phoning the Wausau campus at 715.675.3331 x 5861, or your local campus.

## **Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Training**

Monday July 26th at

Northern Advantage Job Center, Rhinelander OR

Monday, September 27th at

Northern Advantage Job Center, Rhinelander

**Both classes are from 6:00-8:00 PM**

Cost: \$10 (Pre-registration is required).

To Register, contact Northwest Connection Family Resources at 715.634.2299

## **Tools for Afterschool: Building Capacity**

August 18th, 2010 at UW Stevens Point

*This program is designed for individuals working in afterschool programs.*

For more information and registration visit [www.uwsp.edu/conted/afterschool](http://www.uwsp.edu/conted/afterschool)

## **YoungStar Informational Webinar Series**

One hour of continuing education credit will be accepted by the Registry for viewing each of these archived events.



- \* Overview and Learning Environment section of YoungStar
- \* Health & Wellness and Professional Practices sections of YoungStar
- \* Staff Qualifications section of YoungStar

For more information, go to:

[http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/advocacy/index.php?category\\_id=3267](http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/advocacy/index.php?category_id=3267)

### **Provider Support / Advocate Groups**

**Langlade County:** Meeting times to be determined. For more information contact, Donna Murra at 715.350.4159

**Lincoln County:** Meeting times to be determined. For more information contact, Brenda Danielczak at 715.551.4775

**Marathon County:** Contact CCC if interested in developing an advocate group at 800.628.8534

**Taylor County:** 3rd Monday of month - For more information, call Kelly Emmerich at 715.748.6192.

# ACTIVITY CENTER

## July is...

Blueberries Month  
National Grilling Month  
National Hot Dog Month  
National Make a Difference to Children Month



## Beach Cups

Using a see-thru plastic cups, layer with vanilla pudding w/ a few drops of blue food color, enough to make it a light sky blue. Mix in some gummy fish/sharks. Next layer is the "sand", made of crushed vanilla wafers. Layer pudding again and follow with another layer of "sand", top off with an umbrella stick.

Summer Reading!

*The Hokey Pokey Man*  
by Steven Kroll

*Ice Cream Bear*  
by Jez Alborough



*Paddy's New Hat*  
by John S. Goodall

*The Reason for a Flower*  
by Ruth Heller

*Bubble Trouble*  
by Mary Packard,

*Grandpa's Secret Potion*  
by Holly Hartman,

## In September

Play Days: 7th—11th  
Line Dance Week: 13th—18th  
National Clean Hands Week: 19th—25th  
Pollution Prevention Week: 20th—26th



## Birdseed Garden

Birdseeds, sponge,  
plastic plate

Place a sponge soaked with water in a plastic plate and allow children to sprinkle it with birdseeds. Place the plate in a sunny place and watch for the seeds to sprout! The seeds will continue to sprout as long as the child keeps water in the plate.



## Pan For Gold

Need: small rocks, gold spray paint, sand, water table, sand sifters

Spray paint small rocks gold. Put sand in your water table and add the gold rocks. Give the children sand sifters to pan for gold.

## I'm a Little Bubble

Sung to: "I'm A Little Teapot"

I'm a little bubble, shiny and round.  
I gently float down to the ground.  
The wind lifts me up and then I drop.  
Down to the dry ground where I pop.

## Friendship Wreath

Need: Paint, large paper, ribbon

Have the children place their handprints on a large piece of paper in a circular shape to create a friendship wreath. Decorate it with ribbons and display on the wall.

## August Days...

1st — Friendship Day  
7th — Lighthouse Day  
18th — Cupcake Day  
30th — National Toasted Marshmallow Day



## Grow Your Name

Small Box (half the size of a shoe box), Grass Seed, Potting Soil

Get small boxes, line them with plastic, and fill them with potting soil. Have your children scratch out their name in the soil. Have them sprinkle grass seeds into the name. Gently cover it with soil and soon you will have their name growing in a garden.

## Paper Bag Cowboy Vest

Need: Paper grocery bag, scissors, paint, paint brush

Take a paper grocery bag, cut straight down the center to the bottom of the bag, cut a hole in the bottom of the bag (this will be the top) and cut a hole on each side for arms. You may need to cut and staple the shoulders for a better fitting vest. Have kids paint or decorate their cowboy vest.

Child Care Resource & Referral of Central Wisconsin:  
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■ Kelly Allen ■ Lenna Hamilton ■ Steve Walczak ■ Marianne Schock ■ Vicki Lobermeier

**MISSION:** *To be the key resource of comprehensive services to enhance quality child care in Central Wisconsin.*

YoungStar, the child care quality rating and improvement system, passed unanimously by Wisconsin's Joint Committee on Finance!

We'd like to thank the members of the Joint Finance Committee for prioritizing the children and families of Wisconsin. We appreciate the commitment to investing in high quality early care and education.

To learn more about YoungStar, visit  
<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar>

**CCR&R Office Services**

*Available for child care providers.*

Laminator: 75 cents per foot

Copier: 10 cents per white copy

**Both are self-serve!** CALL AHEAD:  
(Merrill) 539.9779, (WI Rapids) 423.4114  
or 800.628.8534

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**MISSION:** *To respond to needs and deliver services that improve and support a quality child care system.*

Xav tau kev pab pes/xhais daim ntauw xovxwm  
no thov hu tuaj rau Kao Lai Xiong 715-539-9779  
Hhub Mondays - 9:30 txog 3:30pm.



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