



Wisconsin State Updates

Terra Klein, Tina Feaster, Tony Bouxa



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

WECA Conference

2019



Wisconsin's Child Care Quality Rating & Improvement System

Updates 2021/2022

- Simplified Criteria – Block Structure
- Current Versions – ERS-3 Tools

Current YoungStar Rating System

- YoungStar is a hybrid model where providers go through a 40-point evaluation process that consists of both **required** and **optional** points
- The total number of points a program earns PLUS the required points a program earns makes up their overall rating
- YoungStar uses the second version of the Environment Rating Scales to observe programs at the 4 and 5 Star levels

2021/2022 Evaluation Criteria Changes

- Beginning with the 2021-22 Evaluation Criteria Rating, YoungStar will use an easier to understand block rating system:
 - Elimination of optional points, *now your program just needs to meet the required criteria for each star level*
 - Includes the current requirements for a 3 Star rating as the only areas evaluated for a 3 Star rating;
 - Includes the current requirements for a 4 and 5 Star rating, plus a few YoungStar quality practices that are currently optional, as the only areas evaluated for a 4 or 5 Star rating; and
 - Allows programs to focus on the areas most linked to child outcomes.



Family Child Care Rating Overview

High-Quality Practices
Health and Well-Being
Business and Professional Practices
Environment and Curriculum
Education and Training
Regulatory Compliance

		★★★☆☆	★★★★★
		Program demonstrates 4 of 7 additional areas* of high-quality practices	Program demonstrates 5 of 7 additional areas* of high-quality practices
	★★★	Program progresses on healthy nutrition and/or physical activity policy and practice goals	Program progresses on healthy nutrition and/or physical activity policy and practice goals
		Ongoing yearly budget, budget review, record-keeping and accurate tax record	Ongoing yearly budget, budget review, record-keeping and accurate tax record
		Many Family Engagement Practices	Many Family Engagement Practices
		High-quality parent handbook	High-quality parent handbook
		Some Family Engagement Practices	Strategies to reduce risk
		Developmentally appropriate interactions, materials, and environment, incorporating Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards and/or School-Age Curricular Framework.	Developmentally appropriate interactions, materials, and environment, incorporating WMELS/SACF.
		ERS-3 Ave Score of 3.25	ERS-3 Ave Score of 4.25
	★★	Provider with Registry Level 7 or higher	Provider with Registry Level 10 or higher
		Provider with Registry Level 10 or higher	Provider with Registry Level 12 or higher
In Regulatory Compliance	In Regulatory Compliance	In Regulatory Compliance	In Regulatory Compliance

Programs not in regulatory or subsidy compliance receive 1 Star and are not be eligible for YoungStar services. Programs are required to complete a Self-Assessment and Quality Improvement Plan for micro-grant eligibility.

***High-Quality Practices (7):**

- Curriculum alignment with WMELS or SACF
- Portfolios used
- Child Assessments used
- Developmental Screenings performed
- Curriculum and environment support individual child goals, as derived from child assessments
- Pyramid or Inclusion training
- Strengthening Families training

Group Child Care Rating Overview

High-Quality Practices
Health and Well-Being
Business and Professional Practices
Environment and Curriculum
Education and Training
Regulatory Compliance

			★★★★★
		★★★★★	Program demonstrates 5 of 7 additional areas* of high-quality practices
		★★★★★	Program demonstrates 4 of 7 additional areas* of high-quality practices
	★★★	★★★★★	Program progresses on healthy nutrition and/or physical activity policy and practice goals
	★★★	★★★★★	Program progresses on healthy nutrition and/or physical activity policy and practice goals
	★★★	★★★★★	Ongoing yearly budget, budget review, record-keeping and accurate tax record
	★★★	★★★★★	Ongoing yearly budget, budget review, record-keeping and accurate tax record
	★★★	★★★★★	Many Family Engagement Practices
	★★★	★★★★★	Many Family Engagement Practices
	★★★	★★★★★	High-quality employment policies
	★★★	★★★★★	High-quality employment policies
	★★★	★★★★★	Business invests in staff retention strategies
	★★★	★★★★★	Business invests in staff retention strategies
	★★★	★★★★★	Developmentally appropriate interactions, materials, and environment, incorporating WI Model Early Learning Standards and/or School-Age Curricular Framework.
	★★★	★★★★★	Developmentally appropriate interactions, materials, and environment, incorporating WMELS/SACF.
	★★★	★★★★★	Developmentally appropriate interactions, materials, and environment, incorporating WMELS/SACF.
	★★★	★★★★★	ERS Ave Score of 3.5
	★★★	★★★★★	ERS Ave Score of 4.5
	★★★	★★★★★	ERS Ave Score of 4.5
	★★★	★★★★★	Lead Teachers with Registry Level 7 & Up for 25% of all classrooms AND Level 6 & up for 25% additional classrooms
	★★★	★★★★★	Lead Teachers with Registry Level 9 & Up for 50% of all classrooms AND Level 7 & up for all additional classrooms
	★★★	★★★★★	Lead Teachers with Registry Level 12 or higher for all classrooms
	★★★	★★★★★	Director with Registry Level 10 or higher
	★★★	★★★★★	Director with Registry Level 12 or higher
	★★★	★★★★★	Director with Registry Level 13 or higher
★★	★★	★★	★★
In Regulatory Compliance	In Regulatory Compliance	In Regulatory Compliance	In Regulatory Compliance

Programs not in regulatory or subsidy compliance receive 1 Star and are not be eligible for YoungStar services. Programs are required to complete a Self-Assessment and Quality Improvement Plan for micro-grant eligibility.

*High-Quality Practices (7):

- Curriculum alignment with WMELS or SACF
- Portfolios used
- Child Assessments used
- Developmental Screenings performed
- Curriculum and environment support individual child goals, as derived from child assessments
- Pyramid or Inclusion training
- Strengthening Families training

School-Age Rating Overview

High-Quality Practices
Health and Well-Being
Business and Professional Practices
Environment and Curriculum
Education and Training
Regulatory Compliance

		★★★★★	★★★★★
		★★★★★	★★★★★
	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
		★★★★★	★★★★★
	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
In Regulatory Compliance	In Regulatory Compliance	In Regulatory Compliance	In Regulatory Compliance

Programs not in regulatory or subsidy compliance receive 1 Star and are not be eligible for YoungStar services. Programs are required to complete a Self-Assessment and Quality Improvement Plan for micro-grant eligibility.

***High-Quality Practices (7):**

- Curriculum alignment with WMELS or SACF
- Portfolios used
- Child Assessments used
- Developmental Screenings performed
- Curriculum and environment support individual child goals, as derived from child assessments
- Pyramid or Inclusion training
- Strengthening Families training

Short-Term Operational Program* Rating Overview

High-Quality Practices
Health and Well-Being
Business and Professional Practices
Environment and Curriculum
Education and Training
Regulatory Compliance

	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★
	Program progresses on healthy nutrition and/or physical activity policy and practice goals	None	None
	Ongoing yearly budget, budget review, record-keeping and accurate tax record Some Family Engagement Practices	None	None
	Developmentally appropriate interactions, materials, and environment, incorporating WMELS and/or School-Age Curricular Framework.	Accredited by approved accreditation body	Accredited by approved accreditation body
	Group leaders with Registry Level 7 & Up for 25% of all groups AND Level 6 & up for 25% additional groups Camp Director with Registry Level 10 or higher. If level 10, must also have 6 business specific credits	None	Group leaders with Registry Level 9 & Up for 50% of all groups AND Level 7 & up for remaining groups Camp Director with Registry Level 13 or higher. If level 13, must also have Administrator's Credential
★★	In Regulatory Compliance	In Regulatory Compliance	In Regulatory Compliance

Programs not in regulatory or subsidy compliance receive 1 Star and are not be eligible for YoungStar services.

Programs are required to complete a Self-Assessment and Quality Improvement Plan for micro-grant eligibility.

*Short-Term Operational Programs are regulated early education programs that operate for 14 or fewer consecutive weeks per year.

Other Criteria Changes

Developmentally Appropriate Environment – Art Materials	B.1.3 Art materials will only be required for classrooms/programs with all children aged 24 months or older. The current requirement applies to classrooms/programs with all children aged 12 months or older. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art materials must be developmentally appropriate and at least six different types of art materials must be available in the environment (when all children are aged 24 months or older).
Developmentally Appropriate Environment – Nature/Science	B.1.3 Nature/Science materials will now be required for classrooms/programs with all children aged 24 months or older. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nature/Science materials must be developmentally appropriate and at least FIVE different examples of nature/science materials must be available in the environment (when all children are aged 24 months or older).
Health and Well-being	D.1.1 After a program initially earns this indicator, they must demonstrate progress on at least one healthy nutrition and/or physical activity policy and/or practice goal from their previous QIP in order to continue to earn this indicator.

2021/2022 Environment Rating Scale (ERS) Tools

- Updated most observation tools to the 3rd editions of the Environment Rating Scales (ITERS-3, ECERS-3, FCCERS-3 along with current SACERS-U)
- Updated “cut points” for programs to allow time for transitioning to the new versions
- Creating many training around each of the updated tool versions

ERS-3: *Why the change?*

- Supports recent research in developmentally appropriate environments
- Emphasizes that relationships are the key ingredient in healthy, optimal child development
- Understands the connection between positive interactions and stronger educational outcomes

ECERS-3: Key Differences

- For child care classrooms that serve children ages 3 through 5 years old
- No teacher interview, just a 3-hour observation period
- Focuses on interactions
- Emphasis on how teachers use the materials that are accessible to the children
- Adds 5 new language and literacy items with more specific indicators to assess teachers' strategies for guiding language and literacy awareness

ITERS-3: Key Differences

- Expands age group, now birth through 35 months
- No teacher interview, just a 3-hour observation period
- Less items organized into 6 subscales
- Emphasis on how teachers use the materials to foster children's learning
- 6 items on Language and Books focusing on the importance of language interactions
- New item: Math
- Rescaled indicators related to personal care and safety

FCCERS-3: Key Differences

- No teacher interview, just a 3-hour observation period
- Focuses on interactions
- Emphasis on how teachers use the materials that are accessible to the children
- Six items on Language and Books; focusing on the importance of language interactions
- Six items on Interaction; highlighting the value of relationships in young children's learning and development

Embracing the ERS-3 Tools

- Meaningful learning occurs best when there is plenty of time to choose from many activities, with a teacher who brings learning out of play.
- Children are provided with opportunities to explore and apply new skills through a balance of child-initiated and teacher-initiated activities.
- Children thrive when their health and safety needs are met and healthful habits are established for a lifetime.
- Children develop good feelings about themselves and strong social skills from adults who are nurturing and use positive methods of guidance.



Resources for 2021/2022 Criteria

- All changes will begin:
 - For any program that submits an INITIAL YoungStar contract on or after January 1, 2021
 - For any program that submits a renewal YoungStar contract and has a rating anniversary date on or after January 1, 2021
- Trainings on the ERS-3 tools will be available Summer 2020
 - Both online and face-to-face formats
 - Separate trainings for each tool
 - Rating scale experts will be providing a one time only, three-day training for WI providers
- Resources will be available at
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers>



Recognizing Programs Beyond Ratings

- Icons on Child Care Finder for programs:



- New icons coming:

- Multilingual program
- Program that provides transportation
- Allergy free environment

- Way to distinguish between Automated and receiving services
- Creating two Badges. Verified with training and an onsite component.
 - Inclusion and Social/Emotional Badges in process



Questions?

Twitter
DCF Listserv

Department of Children and Families
Division of Early Care and Education
Bureau of Early Learning and Policy

youngstar@wisconsin.gov





Child Care Licensing Updates

- Purpose of Emergency Rule
- Licensing Rule Updates
- Additional Information

Emergency Rule Revisions

Purpose

To ensure that the department's rules affecting child care certification and licensing comply with the health and safety requirements in federal regulations based on the Child Care and Development Block Grant. In addition, the emergency rules regroup the department's child care certification and licensing rules that address the same topics in different places, eliminate duplicative provisions, correct errors, and clarify language where needed to ensure proper implementation and administration of the health and safety requirements.

Emergency Rule Effective

September 30, 2019

Permanent Rule Effective

March 1, 2020



Licensing Rules

DCF 250, 251, and 252

- Rules have been consolidated and grouped with other similar rules and duplicative rules were eliminated, such as:
 - Staff files
 - Children's records
 - Hazards
 - Personal hygiene requirements (handwashing)
 - Medical log books
- Family child care applicant and providers must be an individual, as opposed to a corporation, LLC, or partnership.
 - This change does not affect a licensee's ability to form a separate business organization for banking and tax purposes.
- Reports to the department include any injury caused by an animal to a child in care, within 24 hours after the incident.
- Immediate parent notification includes if the child experiences a head injury; defined in rule as a "bump, blow, or jolt to the head."



Licensing Rules

DCF 250, 251, and 252

- CPR/AED training is required to be completed within 3 months for family and group providers.
- Director of 50 or fewer and teacher experience requirements were modified from 80 full days/120 half days to 320 hours.
- Removed staff qualification of Registry levels 12 and 14 for directors.
 - Anyone who has been qualified as a director through those rules and has been or is currently employed as a director are grandfathered in.
- Qualifications for staff that work exclusively with school-age children have been expanded to include additional types of allowable education and experience:
 - Social work
 - Juvenile justice
 - Coaching
 - Education (not just elementary ed.)
 - WI Afterschool and Youth Credential



Licensing Rules

DCF 250, 251, and 252

- Staff health exams are still acceptable 12 months prior and 30 days after
- Staff hours increased
 - Licensed family providers may care for children up to 16 hours.
 - Group child care workers and camp counselors may care for children up to 12 hours
- Increase the amount of time a child can be in care for from 12 to 14 hours.
- Emergency Plans must include procedures that address:
 - Evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, and lock-down
 - Communication with parents
 - Ensuring that the needs of children under age 2 and children with disabilities are met
 - Connecting children with their parents if the center is required to evacuate the building.



Licensing Rules

DCF 250, 251, and 252

- Time outs may not exceed 3 minutes
- Meals and snacks need to meet the US Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program minimum meal requirements
 - Appendices B and C have been repealed; providers will need to follow current CACFP meal requirements
- Requirements for sanitizing and disinfecting surfaces have been modified to allow additional products to be used as long as it is registered with the EPA as a sanitizer or disinfectant.
- Incorporate state statutory requirements into rule, such as carbon monoxide detectors and vehicle liability insurance.



Licensing Rules

DCF 250, 251, and 252

- The section on transportation of children has been rewritten to reorganize and clarify requirements.
 - A requirement for a training for any driver that is specific to transporting children has been added
 - Cell phones and other wireless devices are prohibited from being used unless the vehicle is stopped and out of traffic and used to communicate regarding emergencies has been added.
 - No child may be in transportation to or from a center, field trip, or other center activity for more than 60 minutes for a one-way trip.
- Modify rules regarding safe sleep environments:
 - No blankets or other items may be hung on the side of the crib or playpen
 - No soft or loose materials in the crib or playpen, such as, sheepskins, pillows, blankets, flat sheets, bumper pads, bibs, pacifiers with attached soft objects, or stuff animals
- Requirements limiting the movement of infants and toddlers between groups of children were removed. Infants and toddlers must still have a consistent caregiver in a consistent room, but centers will now be allowed to move children to accommodate staffing needs.



Questions?

Division of Early Care and Education
Bureau of Early Care Regulation

Central Office:

 (608) 421-7550

 dcf.wisconsin.gov/ccregulation



Child Care Background Checks

Updates

- Over 35,000 background checks have been completed
- Average processing time < 20 days
- Fieldprint codes are available same day
- iChildCare has launched (ichildcare.wisconsin.gov)

Compliance

- Annual checks
- Attestation letters



Questions?

Division of Early Care and Education
Bureau of Early Care Regulation
Child Care Background Unit

 (608) 422-7400

 DCFPLICBECRCBU@wisconsin.gov

 dcf.wisconsin.gov/ccbgcheck



Contact Information

Terra Klein

 (608) 422-6977

 Terra.klein@wisconsin.gov

Tina Feaster

 (608) 422-6044

 tina.feaster@wisconsin.gov

Tony Bouxa

 (608) 422-6033

 Antonio.bouxa@wisconsin.gov

