

WEESSN Training Calendar 2024

Wisconsin Early Education Shared Services Network (WEESSN) provides a wide range of free trainings on topics of interest to early childhood program owners, administrators, and staff. Check out the training schedule below for the intended audience for each session. Want to get access to these valuable opportunities? Your program needs to be enrolled in [WEESSN](#). It's truly free – **no hidden catch!**

Unless noted otherwise, all sessions are conducted in English with a corresponding session in Spanish. For the most updated list of [all training opportunities](#), scan this QR code with your smartphone camera. And please encourage your team to attend as well!



Planning Your Career in ECE: Beginnings and Beyond

Thursday, Jan. 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m.



Explore the various career pathways available to everyone, from those just joining the early childhood field to those having decades of experience and education. Learn how Wisconsin Early Childhood Association's free Career Development Counseling service can help identify the right path for your career journey.

Audience: All WEESSN Members and Staff

Instructor: *Mildred Starks, T.E.A.C.H. Career Development Counselor*

[Register](#)

Chair Yoga (Spanish only)

Mondays, Jan. 29 - Feb. 26, 6:30-7:30 p.m.



WEESSN, through [Primordial Multicultural Healing Community](#), is offering a five-session chair yoga series for Spanish-speaking child care providers. Participants will perform postures and movements on a chair, as well as some standing postures, flexes, and extensions to create a connection between the physical body, mind, and emotions. The series is designed to support early educators in maintaining a good level of motion and muscle tone without forcing the body. Gaby Tavera will guide participants to care for the body with love. Registration is open throughout the course; sign up for as many sessions as you'd like.

Audience: Spanish-speaking providers

Instructor: *Gaby Tavera* **Guest facilitator:** *Sylvia Eugenia Ruiz, CMF, SEP*

[Register](#)

Strategic Insights: Finding Your Cost-Per-Child and Break-Even Point

Thursday, Feb. 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m.



Understanding your break-even point is crucial to running a successful business. Join us as we walk through the process of calculating your cost-per child and utilizing this data to make informed decisions related to rate setting, enrollment, staffing, and balancing your budget.

Audience: Group child care administrators and family child care providers

Instructors: *WEESSN Financial Services Team: Dan Eckhardt, Kim Yehle, Jamie Culbert*

[Register](#)

WISER: Onboarding Staff: Creating a Positive Experience

Monday, March 4, 6:30-7:30 p.m.



Successful onboarding, including orientation, can significantly improve employee engagement, reduce turnover in your organization, and help staff feel confident in their work with children and families. Join us to learn how to implement an onboarding system that will improve employee work ethic and ownership as well as enhance your center's culture.

Audience: Group Center Administrators

Instructors: *Nicole Schabow, WEESSN Team Coordinator, and Sue Loberger, WEESSN Tiered Membership Specialist*

[Register](#)

Cultivating Early Childhood Leaders of Color

Monday, March 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Learn the importance of having leaders of color in our early childhood programs and businesses, how to create pathways to leadership for staff members of color, and how to build supportive and inclusive spaces for people of color.

Audience: Family Child Care and Group Center Administrators

Instructors: *Dorothy Bass, WEESN Program Coach, and Dr. Tanya Johnson, WECA DEIB Co-Coordinator*

[Register](#)



Conscious Discipline: Ignite and Excite Training Sessions

WEESN is offering seven full-day Conscious Discipline® trainings across Wisconsin this spring. Conscious Discipline is a nationally recognized, evidence-based approach that helps providers understand and navigate the complexities of child behavior. All registrants will be able to pick up a free copy of the [Conscious Discipline: Building Resilient Classrooms book](#) (one copy per person). 6 hours Wisconsin Registry credit.

[Details](#)



Tasty Tuesday – Fun with Food

Tuesday, April 9, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Join us during Week of the Young Child® for Tasty Tuesday and learn about ways to have fun while enjoying healthy food with the children in your program. WEESN staff will share some of their favorite children's books about food and give away copies of each book featured as prizes throughout the hour. This event is hosted live in English with Spanish interpretation.

Audience: Family Child Care and Group Center Educators

Instructors: *Mary O'Connell and Catherine Hansen, WEESN Food System Coordinators*

[Register](#)



Creating a "Stay Culture": Retaining Staff and Families in Early Childhood Education

Thursday, April 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Learn how turnover impacts early care and education along with strategies for retaining staff and families to create and maintain a "stay culture" for business sustainability.

Audience: Family Child Care and Group Center Administrators

Instructors: *Krista Gylund and Nancy Willman, WEESN Program Coaches*

[Register](#)



EAP: Retaining Employees While Preventing Burnout for Your Team

Thursday, May 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

There are two core concepts to having happy, motivated and productive employees during the age of quiet quitting: their motivation levels and how much stress is impacting them. You can have the most hardworking and motivated employee with the best work ethic in the world, but when they get burned out or aren't heard and supported, they quit. This presentation will help you identify when you or your team members are feeling stressed or burned out, how to talk about it, and provide strategies to help motivate and retain your employees.

Audience: Supervisors

Instructor: *SupportLinc Counselor from the Educator Assistance Program (EAP)*

[Register](#)



Elevate Your Efficiency: Increase Productivity and Compliance Through Administrative Calendars

Thursday, May 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Dive into the use of administrative calendars and discover the power of running your business efficiently! Explore ways to streamline daily tasks, manage key dates, and meet compliance deadlines. Don't miss this opportunity to foster a culture of productivity and accountability through calendar management.

Audience: Family Child Care and Group Center Administrators

Instructors: *Gena Kraemer, WEESN Program Coach, and Kim Yehle, WEESN Finance Specialist*

[Register](#)



EAP: Preventing Burnout Workshop

Thursday, May 30, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Attend the live "Retaining Employees While Preventing Burnout for Your Team" training or watch the recording (a link will be sent after the training), then join the group for an interactive discussion of lessons learned, how you can apply these skills in your program, and how early childhood professionals can share their experiences to support each other.

Audience: Follow-Up Workshop for Supervisors

Instructor: *SupportLinc Counselor from the Educator Assistance Program (EAP)*

[Register](#)



What's Happening with WEESSN?

Thursday, May 30, 6:30-7:30 p.m. – English with live Spanish interpretation

You may have heard changes are coming to WEESSN. This summer, WEESSN will be evolving – continuing to provide many of the resources you know us for plus offering in-depth services across the state. We want to make sure you are in the know. Join us to learn about WEESSN's next chapter and how you can access our services! (No Registry credit offered).

Audience: All WEESSN programs

Instructor: Kelly Matthews

[Register](#)



EAP: The Benefits of Mindfulness

Thursday, June 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

There are many well-documented benefits of mindfulness, from stress reduction to relationship satisfaction to job performance. However, many employees find it difficult to make mindfulness a part of their everyday life. In this presentation, attendees will learn simple yet powerful strategies to help them begin to cultivate the type of greater awareness and active, open attention to the present that experts agree can lead to better health and optimal performance.

Audience: All Family Child Care and Group Center Educators

Instructor: *SupportLinc Counselor from the Educator Assistance Program (EAP)*

[Register](#)



Mindfulness Retreat in Milwaukee: Balancing Giving and Receiving (Spanish Only)

Saturday, June 15, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Milwaukee Friends Meeting

This in-person mindfulness retreat will provide support in recognizing the importance of balancing giving and receiving in daily life. We will experience meditation, group reflection, somatic movement (based on the direct perception of the body), and the art of play. Event will be conducted in Spanish – [learn more here](#). Snacks and lunch provided. 6 hours Wisconsin Registry credit.

Audience: Spanish-speaking Family Child Care and Group Center Educators

Instructor: *Sylvia Eugenia Ruiz, SEP, CMF, and special guests*

[Register](#)



WISER: Creating More Time: Technology's Role in Family Child Care

Monday, June 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Do you wish you had more hours in the day? Learn how technology can help you reclaim your time and create efficiencies in your business tasks.

Audience: Family Child Care Owners/Administrators

Instructors: *Catherine Hansen, WEESSN Food Systems Coordinator and WEESSN Program Coach, and Abbey Sena Reinke, WEESSN Tiered Membership Specialist*

[Register](#)



Educator Assistance Program (EAP) Open Office Hour

Thursday, June 20, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Learn how the EAP can benefit you, your household members, and your staff during the **EAP Open Office Hour**. There will be time for you to ask questions. **Make sure you share this opportunity with your program staff and family/household members.** The EAP promotes well-being and helps increase employee satisfaction and retention. It offers 100% confidential access to mental health counseling, crisis support, legal and financial consultations, HR coaching, and more. Learn more about the EAP on our [website](#).

Audience: All Family Child Care and Group Center Educators

Instructor: *Tarnesha Miller, WEESSN EAP Coordinator*

[Register](#)



EAP: Mindfulness Workshop

Thursday, June 27, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Attend the live "The Benefits of Mindfulness" training or watch the recording (a link will be sent after the training), then join the group for an interactive discussion of lessons learned, how you can apply these skills in your program and your life, and how early childhood professionals can share their experiences to support each other.

Audience: Follow-Up Workshop for All Family Child Care and Group Center Educators

Instructor: *SupportLinc Counselor from the Educator Assistance Program (EAP)*

[Register](#)



The Magic of Social Media Marketing

Thursday, July 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

From Facebook and Instagram to LinkedIn and TikTok, join us as we dive deep into the magic of social media marketing to boost enrollment, attract staff, increase value, and create community connections. Even when your program is fully enrolled, maintaining a strong social media presence will help make your business sustainable. Creating your brand, showing your mission, vision, and philosophy, and how your business is thriving and in demand can allow you to charge a premium for your program. Do not miss this opportunity to find out how social media can transform your child care business!

Audience: Family Child Care and Group Center Administrators

Instructors: *Kimberly Yehle and Theresa Shaeffer, WEESN Business Coaches*

[Register](#)



EAP: Effective Communication Skills for Supervisors

Tuesday, Aug. 6, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Most employees spend much of their time communicating in some way on the job. Communication is a two-way street – it means speaking well and listening carefully. This presentation will explore different communication styles and critical communication skills, including reflective listening and providing feedback, with time to review and practice these skills.

Audience: Supervisors

Instructor: *SupportLinc Counselor*

[Register](#)



EAP: Supervisor Communication Skills Workshop

Tuesday, Aug. 20, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Attend the live "Effective Communication Skills for Supervisors" training or watch the recording (a link will be sent after the training), then join the group for an interactive discussion of lessons learned, how you can apply these skills in your program, and how early childhood professionals can share their experiences to support each other.

Audience: Follow-Up Workshop for Supervisors

Instructor: *SupportLinc Counselor*

[Register](#)



Embracing Differences: How to Promote Equity in External Communications

Thursday, Aug. 22, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

This training will examine the importance of equity in external communication and marketing practices. We will discuss how to promote inclusive language, race, ethnicity, and gender, and the importance of body language and facial expression when communicating.

Audience: Family Child Care and Group Center Administrators

Instructors: *Dorothy Bass and Michelle Seay, WEESN Business Coaches*

[Register](#)



EAP: Dealing with Difficult People

Tuesday, Sept. 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Many people deal with difficult people as part of their everyday lives. Without command of solid coping mechanisms, the stress of handling difficult people and tough situations can create a lack of productivity, poor attitude, and reluctance to come to work. Attendees will learn how to address a range of challenging situations and take steps to improve problem relationships.

Audience: All Family Child Care and Group Center Educators

Instructor: *SupportLinc Counselor*

[Register](#)





EAP: Difficult People Workshop

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Attend the live "Dealing with Difficult People" training or watch the recording (a link will be sent after the training), then join the group for an interactive discussion of lessons learned, how you can apply these skills in your program and your life, and how early childhood professionals can share their experiences to support each other.

Audience: Follow-Up Workshop for All Family Child Care and Group Center Educators
Instructor: *SupportLinc Counselor*

[Register](#)



WISER: Family Voices – Gathering Meaningful Feedback

Thursday, Sept. 26, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Gather families' perspectives and experiences to help shape better services and policies in your program. Learn about the importance of surveys and how to use them to ensure families' needs, preferences, and expectations are heard. Discover the many resources available on WISER that will assist in creating surveys and how to utilize them.

Audience: Family Child Care and Group Center Administrators
Instructors: *Gena Kraemer and Nancy Willman, WEESSN Business Coaches*

[Register](#)



Calming the Paperwork Chaos

Thursday, Oct. 24, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Join us for a training designed to help family child care providers conquer the paperwork chaos! Learn simple, yet effective strategies for organizing paperwork such as receipts, invoices, and more. This training is perfect for anyone looking to streamline their administrative tasks and focus more on what they love – taking care of children. Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, we've got you covered.

Audience: Family Child Care Owners/Administrators
Instructors: *Anne Alexander and Holly Hale, WEESSN Business Coaches*

[Register](#)



EAP: Motivate, Recognize, and Energize Employees

Thursday, Nov. 7, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

This presentation will help attendees create a tool bag of techniques to motivate employees and managers. We will cover self-care, positive psychology, resiliency, laughter, and more, and discuss how motivation and recognition lead to increased productivity.

Audience: Supervisors
Instructor: *SupportLinc Counselor*

[Register](#)



Elevating Staff by Creating a Personalized Approach to Professional Development

Thursday, Nov. 14, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

In this training, attendees will learn how to create staff evaluations from job descriptions and utilize the information toward personalizing professional development goals for growth.

Audience: Family Child Care and Group Center Administrators
Instructors: *Nicole Schabow, WEESSN Team Coordinator and Krista Gylund, WEESSN Business Coach*

[Register](#)



EAP: Energize Employees Workshop

Thursday, Nov. 21, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Attend the live "Motivate, Recognize, and Energize Employees" training or watch the recording (a link will be sent after the training), then join the group for an interactive discussion of lessons learned, how you can apply these skills in your program, and how early childhood professionals can share their experiences to support each other.

Audience: Follow-Up Workshop for Supervisors
Instructor: *SupportLinc Counselor*

[Register](#)



WISER: Mastering Year-End Tax Preparation – Essential Strategies and Resources

Thursday, Dec. 12, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Join us as we explore essential year-end tax preparation strategies and review helpful WISER tools to support you in maximizing your deductions and making tax season a breeze.

Audience: Family Child Care and Group Center Administrators

Instructors: WEESN Back-Office Team

[Register](#)

WEESN Training On Demand

WEESN Training On Demand courses offer flexible and accessible learning experiences tailored to your schedule. Dive into a variety of professional development topics at your own pace and earn Registry credit for each course you complete. Accessible anytime, anywhere, these FREE courses provide engaging content and useful tools to manage your child care business.

[Register](#)

Note: this schedule will be updated periodically as we have updated information. If you have questions, please contact [Mary O'Connell](#), WEESN Professional Development Coordinator.

(Revised 8.1.24)