

## Changes to YoungStar for 2016

The items outlined in this document are clarifications or modifications that were made to YoungStar for 2016 implementation. These will be effective for any program that applies to YoungStar on or after January 1, 2016 or whose anniversary date is in 2016.

| General Clarifications That Apply to All YS Programs |  |   |
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| Category   | Indicator  | Clarification   |
| General  | Grace Period   | The grace period for replacing staff when a staff departure causes a drop in star level will increase from 60 calendar days to 90 calendar days.  |
|  | Rating Frequency   | Programs will be required to be rated every other year with the option of an annual rating, if requested by the program. Planning for this will occur in 2016 with implementation in 2017. Rating criteria would change every other year as well. This addresses the concern by programs that they are evaluated too often and are required to provide too much paperwork.  |
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| Learning Environment and Curriculum                  | Training   | Beginning January 1, 2016, if a program has more than one person listed in their Program Profile for a classroom/group, the training (but not the education) of either individual will be counted when awarding YoungStar points. For example, if an Assistant Teacher in a classroom has taken the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (WMELS) but the Lead Teacher has not, the program would be given credit for that classroom having met the requirement for WMELS training. To be qualified to be listed as an Assistant Teacher in the Program Profile, the individual needs to spend at least half the time the classroom is open (up to 20 hours per week) in the classroom. The educational level of the Assistant Teacher will not be counted for YoungStar points. The method of awarding points for the education of the Lead Teacher will remain the same. |
| Learning Environment and Curriculum                  | B.1.3<br>Additional Work on a Quality Improvement Plan             | The Additional Work on a Quality Improvement Plan will be replaced with Developmentally Appropriate Practices.<br><b>RENAMED:</b><br>B.1.3 Developmentally Appropriate Practices  |
|  | B.2.1<br>Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (WMELS) Training | Group, Day Camp, and School Age: Currently, programs are given 1 point for 50% of Lead Teachers with WMELS/SACF training and 2 points for 100% of Lead Teachers with WMELS/SACF training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This change removes the second point for 100% of Lead Teachers. The indicator will allow 1 point for 50% of Lead Teachers with WMELS/SACF training. The omitted point will be used for the addition of a developmental screening tool to mirror the requirements in the Family Child Care criteria.</li> </ul>   |

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|                                     | B.3.3<br>Program Conducts and is Trained in Annual Developmental Screening       | This indicator name is revised slightly to indicate the requirement to perform developmental screenings and this optional indicator is added to the Group, Day Camp and School Age criteria to match the Family Child Care criteria.  |
| Business and Professional Practices | C.2.2<br>Employment Policies and Procedures (Group, SA and Day Camp only)        | This indicator will be simplified based upon the requirements in the Program Administration Scale and Business Administration Scale. The indicator will allow for a cafeteria type selection for 6 of the 8 activities in the indicator.  |
|                                     | C.2.3<br>Strategic Planning with Staff Involvement (Group, SA and Day Camp only) | A clarification and modification of the indicator name was requested so that programs knew that a number of strategic planning and staff involvement tools could be used outside of the Model Work Standards.   |
| Family Engagement                   | C.5.1-5<br>Family Engagement   | As part of Race to the Top, this indicator was revised to allow a two-tiered cafeteria style point structure. Programs can earn one or two points for this indicator by showing evidence of five (one point) or ten (two points) practices in family engagement. Programs have over 40 options in the following five categories of family engagement: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transitions</li> <li>2. Family Engagement and Involvement</li> <li>3. Family Communication Strategies</li> <li>4. Family Support Strategies</li> <li>5. Family and Community Connection Strategies</li> </ol>   |
| Health and Wellbeing                | D.1.1<br>Nutritious meals, snacks and beverages                                  | Slight name change to emphasize the nutritious meals, snacks <b>and beverages</b> .<br><br>The Wisconsin Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiative (WECOPI) recommendation to phase out the nutritious meals requirement (because this is already a regulatory requirement) and implement a focus around Health Bites, Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care or Gardening through self-assessment, goals and strategies to improve these practices in child care will be implemented for the 2017 criteria.<br><br>The guidelines for this future point will be available for program by the end of the calendar year to give them ample time to prepare to meet this new option. |
|                                     | D.1.2<br>60 minutes of physical activity   | The Wisconsin Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiative (WECOPI) recommendation to increase the physical activity point to 90 minutes of physical activity per day as well as utilization of the Active Early content for self-assessment, goals and strategies to improve these practices in child care will be implemented for the 2017 criteria.<br><br>The guidelines for this future point will be available for program by the end of the calendar year to give them  |

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|                      |   | ample time to prepare to meet this new option.  |
| Health and Wellbeing | D.1.4 Strengthening Families/Darkness to Light Training | For ratings occurring on or after January 1, 2016, YoungStar will no longer accept Department-approved Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (CANP) training to meet the requirements of indicator D.1.4 because training is already required for licensing. Programs that earned a point for D.1.4 due to having 100% of Lead Teachers/Director with CANP training will no longer earn that point when they are rated in the 2016 rating year unless the program has staff with qualifications to meet the other training options in indicator D.1.4.<br><b>RENAMED:</b><br>D.1.4 Strengthening Families/Darkness to Light Training |

### **Environment Rating Scales Clarifications for 2016**

The updated notes for clarification on the ERSI website are used to update the Notes for Clarification and are used for scoring throughout 2015. There has been only one minor update to ECERS in the past year, and no updates at all to any of the other scales. The Clarifications are located at: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/ers.htm>

**SACERS-Updated:** In 2016, the SACERS Updated will be used for Formal Ratings. It is not a revision but rather an updated version of the original. It has minor changes and is corrected to score irregularities in the original SACERS, with several new Indicators that have been added.

### **Wisconsin Interpretations**

The following interpretation was made in response to issues raised by programs about snow being present when the Environment Rating Scale Observation was performed. The ECERS-R, ITERS-R, FCCERS-R and SACERS-U tools each have two indicators that this Wisconsin Interpretation refers to. The full documents are available at: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/ers.htm>.

### **Safety Practices and Active Physical Play/Gross Motor Play**

From December 1 to March 31, if children do not use outdoor equipment with platforms over 18 inches tall, insufficient cushioning will not be cited as a safety hazard when scoring this indicator. Accumulated snow does not provide adequate cushioning to protect against head injuries. Additionally, surface types such as loose-fill cushioning (wood mulch and rubber mulch), sand, pea gravel, and poured-in-place cushioning can freeze and lose their shock absorbency in winter/cold weather. Children can be permitted to use other equipment that does not require a cushioned fall surface. Other safety hazards in the gross motor space may still be cited as a safety hazard when scoring this indicator.

Note: When snow is cleared/moved and piled next to the fence, it can reduce the effective height of the fence. Licensing requires that fences are 48 inches high. Fence height should be considered when deciding where cleared snow will be placed, so that the required fence height can be maintained. Reduced fence height will be cited as a safety hazard.

### **Minimum Indoor Temperature**

The ERS tools require that the spaces or rooms used by children must be kept at a comfortable temperature. Wisconsin licensing rules require that the inside temperature may not be less than 67°F in all indoor spaces. "Indoor spaces" refers to all spaces served by the building's ventilation system (heating and/or air conditioning). Since sensitivity to room temperature varies greatly, the adequacy of the room temperature will be judged based on how comfortable the children and adults

appear to be. The temperature will only be checked if the children and/or staff indicate discomfort based on the room temperature.