



## Accreditation Policy

September 2016

YoungStar accepts the following accreditations as equivalent to a 5 Star rating:

- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- Association for Early Learning Leaders' National Accreditation Commission
- City of Madison Group and School-Age Accreditation

YoungStar accepts the following accreditations as equivalent to a 4 Star rating:<sup>1</sup>

- Council on Accreditation (COA)
- National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)
- Satellite Family Child Care Accreditation (in the greater Madison area)
- American Camp Association (ACA)

YoungStar accepts the following accreditations as equivalent to a 4 Star or a 5 Star rating:<sup>2</sup>

- National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)
- AdvancED
- American Montessori Society (AMS)

When a program becomes accredited or extends/renews their accreditation, it is the responsibility of the program to send their certificate of accreditation/re-accreditation to the Department of Children and Families via fax: **608-224-6178** or via email to: [youngstar@wisconsin.gov](mailto:youngstar@wisconsin.gov)

**YoungStar cannot recognize a program as accredited until the certificate of accreditation/re-accreditation is received. The valid dates of the accreditation will be entered into the YoungStar system and the YoungStar rating and corresponding YoungStar Adjustments will reflect the accredited status effective the first of the month following the date the accreditation begins.**

NOTE: DCF will consider accepting additional accreditations through a process of reviewing and comparing the accreditations' demonstrated competencies to those of the NAEYC standards. Policies

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<sup>1</sup> If a program is accredited by COA, NAFCC or Satellite AND the program meets the educational requirements of a 5 Star program in their respective YoungStar rating track, that program would be eligible for a 5 Star rating.

<sup>2</sup> If a program is accredited by NECPA, AdvancED, or AMS AND the program meets the educational requirements of a 4 Star program in their respective YoungStar rating track, that program would be eligible for a 4 Star rating. If a program is accredited by NECPA, AdvancED, or AMS AND the program meets the educational requirements of a 5 Star program in their respective YoungStar rating track, that program would be eligible for a 5 Star rating.

have been established that provide the opportunity for additional accreditation agencies to submit an alignment of their quality standards to the NAEYC standards for review by DCF. If you submit an application for review to DCF and DCF has clarifying questions that, with additional information, would allow the accreditation to be accepted as equivalent to a YoungStar rating DCF will allow you to provide clarification and additional information to support your application.

However, if your organization is found to not meet the threshold, you must wait one calendar year from the original submission prior to resubmitting an application for reconsideration. If you resubmit your accreditation after making modifications to better align with the NAEYC standards, DCF will not accept your organization's accreditation standards within currently accredited program(s) until you provide DCF with written verification that you have reviewed the currently accredited program(s) under the new standards.

#### Voluntary lapse

If a program is accredited and the accreditation lapses or expires, upon notification from the provider or the accrediting body that the accreditation has lapsed or expired, the provider's rating will drop to a 2 Star rating effective the first of the month following the date the accreditation lapses or expires. If the program accepts Wisconsin Shares payments from families, the drop in star rating will negatively affect families' Wisconsin Shares subsidy amounts and the program's YoungStar Adjustment.

In anticipation of an accreditation expiring, a program may complete a YoungStar Change Form and request a technical or formal rating to replace a rating based upon accreditation. Programs are eligible for Technical Assistance if they have not used their annual allotment of Technical Assistance already that year. The program will be placed into the normal queue for YoungStar services with other programs who are applying for YoungStar for the first time and renewing programs.<sup>3</sup>

The timeframes for YoungStar services for these programs are the same as for new applicants:

Technical Assistance = 20 weeks

Formal Rating with Technical Assistance = within 8 weeks of the conclusion of Technical Assistance

Formal Rating without Technical Assistance = 8 weeks

It is in the best interest of the program to allow plenty of time for a replacement rating to be given in order to avoid the negative effect on Wisconsin Shares subsidy amounts and YoungStar Quality Adjustments. If a program knows they will be allowing their accreditation to lapse or expire, we recommend programs submit a YoungStar Change Form **at least six months** in advance of the accreditation expiring if possible. If the accreditation lapses before a program has been given a Technical or Formal rating, the program's rating will move to a 2 Star on the first of the month following the date the accreditation lapsed/expired until the Technical or Formal rating is completed.

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<sup>3</sup> Programs will be placed at the end of the queue but before 1 Star rated providers.

### Involuntary lapse

If a program is accredited and the accreditation is revoked by the accrediting body for any reason, upon notification from the program or the accrediting body that the accreditation has been revoked, the program's rating will drop to a 2 Star rating effective the first of the month following the date the accreditation was revoked. If the program is accepting Wisconsin Shares payments from families at the time of the rating change, the drop in star rating will negatively affect the families' Wisconsin Shares subsidy amounts and the program's YoungStar Adjustment.

A program may complete a YoungStar Change Form and request a technical or formal rating at any time to replace a rating based upon accreditation. Programs are eligible for Technical Assistance if they have not used their annual allotment of Technical Assistance already that year. The program will be placed into the normal queue for YoungStar services with other programs who are applying for YoungStar for the first time and renewing programs.<sup>4</sup> The timeframes for YoungStar services for these programs are the same as for new applicants (see timeframes above).

### **Contact Information for the Accrediting Bodies**

- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC): <http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation>
- Association for Early Learning Leaders' National Accreditation Commission: <http://www.earlylearningleaders.org/?page=accreditation>
- City of Madison Group and School-Age Accreditation: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/commserv/CommunityCenters.html>
- Council on Accreditation (COA): <http://coanet.org/standards/standards-overview/>
- National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC): <http://www.nafcc.org/Membership>
- Satellite Family Child Care Accreditation (in the greater Madison area): <http://www.satellitefcc.com/joining.html>
- National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA): <http://necpa.net/page/NECPAStandards>
- American Montessori Society (AMS): <http://amshq.org/School-Resources/AMS-School-Accreditation>

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<sup>4</sup> Providers will be placed at the end of the queue but before 1 Star rated providers.

- AdvancED:  
<http://www.advanc-ed.org/services/all/accreditation>

***“Satellite” y la Asociación Nacional de Cuidado Infantil Familiar, ofrecen acreditación y apoyo en español. Póngase en contacto con el organismo de acreditación para más información.***