

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- **FINDING DAYCARE FOR YOUR CHILD**
- **8 SIGNS OF A GOOD DAYCARE**
- **WISCONSIN YOUNGSTAR PROGRAM**
- **QUESTIONS TO ASK A PROSPECTIVE DAYCARE**
- **POTENTIAL WARNING SIGNS TO LOOK FOR**

## Finding Daycare for your Child

Choosing the right childcare setting for your baby or young child can seem overwhelming. As a parent, you want to ensure that your child is safe and happy, and that the environment is fun, educational, and nurturing. Here are some tips to help you in that process:

- Consider Your Child and Family - Whether you choose in-home or center-based care, a preschool, or someone else's home, follow specific guidelines to ensure receiving quality and professional care.
- Make a list of qualities you're looking for in a caregiver.
- Spend some time observing a center and talking to parents with children there.
- Ask trusted friends or family for recommendations.

## 8 Signs of a Good Daycare

1. **A Good Reputation** - been in business for a while, up to date credentials.
2. **Established Ground Rules** - firm policies on operating hours, pickup and drop off times, and when children are too sick to attend.
3. **A qualified, caring staff** - invested in each child with early childhood training.
4. **Healthy Food** - reflects all food groups, freshly made, staff awareness of food allergies.
5. **Clean, safe facilities** - indoor and outdoor play areas, child-proofed and escape-proofed.
6. **Licensed by the state** - 3 or better Youngstar rating in Wisconsin (see page 2).
7. **References** - willingly provided and that you are encouraged to call.
8. **Happy, healthy, and engaged children**

## You're Invited: B3 at the Zoo!

**When:** Wednesday, September 20th, 9:30am-12:00pm  
**Where:** Milwaukee County Zoo  
**Who:** All Birth to Three Families are invited!



See the enclosed event invitation for more details.  
RSVP to your Service Coordinator TODAY!

# Wisconsin YoungStar Program

## Other things to consider when choosing a daycare:

\*Parents should always feel welcome to drop in unannounced and spend time with their child.

\*Materials provided for children should celebrate diverse ethnic and cultural groups.

\*Staff should always show respect for the children, and handle discipline in a calm, consistent manner.

\*Children should be given plenty of opportunities to run, climb, and play.

Call 1-888-713 KIDS <http://childcarefinder.wisconsin.gov>

YoungStar is a Wisconsin child care quality rating and improvement system.

- It gives parents the tools and information to raise healthy, happy kids.
- Assists preschools and childcare providers in giving children safe, nurturing, places to grow.
- 5 star rating system gives parents a quick and easy way to compare the childcare programs in their community.

Ask your prospective childcare center if they participate in the Wisconsin YoungStar Program.

## Questions to Ask Your Prospective Daycare

Take this list of questions with you as you meet with potential daycare providers.

1. How long has the center been in business?
2. What is the center's licensed capacity?
3. Are staff trained in CPR and First Aid?
4. Do you have a safe, enclosed outside play area?
5. How do you discipline children?
6. Who may pick up my child?
7. What if my child needs medications during the day?
8. Do you take the children on walks through the neighborhood?
9. May I see the daily schedule for my child?
10. Are your toys and activities age appropriate?
11. How often are the toys cleaned and replaced?
12. Do you have a sign-in and sign-out sheet?
13. Are the front doors secure at all times?
14. Will my child ever be watching television?
15. May I see a copy of your latest licensing inspection findings?

**5 Star Program**  
Meets highest levels of quality standards

**4 Star Program**  
Meets elevated levels of quality standards

**3 Star Program**  
Meets proficient levels of quality standards

**2 Star Program**  
Meets health and safety standards

**1 Star Program**  
Does not meet health and safety standards, and therefore cannot participate in YoungStar

## Potential Warning Signs to Look For:

- Daycare is unlicensed
- High employee turnover
- Too many complaints
- Staff is under qualified
- No clear curriculum
- Center is perpetually dirty
- Safety concerns
- Staff are difficult to communicate with
- Too many children in a room, and not enough staff

Information was gathered and used from the following sources. For more information on these and other topics, please visit the following:

Babycenter.com  
Parentmap.com  
www.naeyc.org

<http://kidshealth.org>  
[Childcarefinder.wisconsin.gov](http://Childcarefinder.wisconsin.gov)