



March 2026

Satellite

FAMILY CHILD CARE SYSTEM

NEWSLETTER



Western Region Educator Appreciation Dinner

Join us for a meal in honor of YOU and the incredibly important work you do.
Open to all educators of Satellite participating programs.

Friday, April 10 at 6 PM
Eau Claire

[Click here to RSVP!](#)



Welcome Upward Milwaukee participants!

LaToya Alexander – One Love Learning Center

Congrats on your first Accreditation!

Welcome Satellite Affiliate members!

Amber Hale – Bucks, Does and Little Toes Learning Ranch



Congrats on moving to Associate level!

Julia Bennker – Ms. Julia's Schoolia

Danielle Hendrix
A New Beginning Family Child Care



Congrats on your Reaccreditation!

Sarah Tuttle with lead educator Missy Olson
Bright Beginnings Day School 3

Satellite Gathering

 Menasha



Join us for another Satellite Gathering!

Time to connect with others over a simple dinner! Come and enjoy the company of fellow Satellite family child care educators.

Friday, May 1 at 5:15 PM

Green Bay

[Click here to RSVP!](#)

FAMILY CHILD CARE PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Small Steps – Great Expectations

Program owner: Betty-Anne White

Accredited Satellite educator

I began my child care program as a single mother of three sons, in a second-floor, two-bedroom apartment. Creating a peaceful home for my children was my top priority, and the children in my program became an extension of that dream. In the past 25 years, my home always looked like a home and not a daycare center. What a blessing it was for me when research began to support the peaceful home environments over the over-stimulating center environments.



Our routines are much like what you would find in a home: they make their beds, prepare meals, brush their teeth, do their hair, their art is framed on the walls, and we engage a lot in the community with multiple weekly library trips, farmers' markets, the Children's Museum, community events, and lots of outside time in wooded areas. The children know the name of every dog in our neighborhood, and cheer when the trash truck comes. I believe strongly in empowering children to be confident in their way of moving through this world.



Being a family child care program has been a symbiotic relationship where I have grown better as a human being, my family has gained financial security, and the attending families receive the support and safety they need to grow their own lives.



Promoting Friendship Skills

Relevant Satellite Accreditation Standards

IV. Supporting Children's Development

C. The provider actively promotes social skills and positive relationships among children.

2. The provider helps each child find positive ways to interact with others and supports children in developing friendships.



Happy Hearts Childcare



Honeypie Nature Playschool



Hundred Acre Play Care

The Basics

Friendship (or reciprocal, intimate, voluntary bonds between people) provides children with emotional security, cognitive support, and sense of belonging (Rubin et al., 2008). Friendship development begins in infancy through relationships with caring, attentive adults offering a model for future social connections. Young children become increasingly aware of others and begin attempting to connect through verbalization, gestures, and imitation. Early childhood friendships emerge and solidify through play where children connect with others with similar interests and play approaches (Mehta & Strough, 2009).

Why promote friendship skills? Friendship promotes social and cognitive development whereas its absence contributes to loneliness, poor self-esteem, and anxiety throughout childhood (Rubin et al., 2008). Children's **play behavior** impacts friendship development and peer acceptance. Children who display positive play interactions like helping others, sharing, and encouraging others to join are more likely to establish friendships than children who display disruptive or disconnected play behaviors (Coelho et al., 2017).

How can I support friendship development? Educators play a critical role in supporting children's social and emotional competency by modeling, coaching, and establishing the social environment (Correia et al., 2026). Below are ideas for promoting friendships among children in mixed-age settings.

→ **Model.** Show children helping, comforting, including, and sharing with others through your actions.

"Would you like help rebuilding your tower?"

Promoting Friendship Skills (Cont.)

- **Acknowledge.** Recognize prosocial behavior between children like turn taking, helping, and cooperating. *“You both are working together to finish the puzzle!”*
- **Narrate.** Help children with limited language skills communicate with others through narration. *“It looks like Isaiah wants to play with you! He is dancing to the music you’re making with the maracas.”*
- **Encourage.** Incorporate materials and activities and plan your physical space to promote cooperation among children. *“I see you both found a spot in the cozy corner. What will you do together?”*
- **Discuss.** Read books and have conversations with children about friendship, including friendship-supporting behavior and its emotional impact. *“How do you know these two children are friends?”*
- **Support.** Help children work through conflict and communicate their needs to others. *“You are upset because Amelia is too close to you. Tell her, ‘I need some space,’ so she knows what you need.”*

I want to learn more!

- [Building Friendships in Preschool \(Article\)](#)
- [Helping Children Learn and Play Together \(Article\)](#)
- [Two’s Company, Three’s a Crowd: Peer Interactions in a Preschool Social Triangle \(Article\)](#)
- [Future Directions in...Friendship in Childhood and Early Adolescence \(Research article\)](#)
- [Promoting Friendship Skills Across the Day \(Resource\)](#)
- [Helping Young Children Make Friends: Tips to Help Kids Build Relationships \(Article\)](#)

Upcoming Professional Development



Exploring Quality in Family Child Care: Promoting Friendship Skills

Friendship development begins in infancy and emerges in the toddler and preschool years through play. Mixed-age early learning environments that offer opportunities for play-based peer interaction support children's social and emotional competence. This course will dive into the brain-based significance of friendship opportunities in early childhood and its lasting impact on mental and physical health. Educators will learn how to support children in connecting with peers during play and foster the program community.

March 10 • 1 – 2 PM • Zoom • English and Spanish • 1 hour of Registry credit

[Register here](#) by 3/8



Exploring Quality in FCC: Preparing Future Readers Through Print Awareness

Print awareness is a child's understanding of the particular organization of a written language and necessary for reading achievement. Children learn to associate visual symbols, or letters, with language when adults repeatedly recognize it through playful, naturally occurring interactions. In this course, Tammy Pineda, Youth Services Manager at Madison Public Library, will discuss the foundational significance of print awareness in early childhood and strategies for scaffolding children's developing pre-literacy skills.

April 7 • 1 – 2 PM • Zoom • English and Spanish • 1 hour of Registry credit

[Register here](#) by 4/5

Join us at the **WFCCA** Conference



Connect with Satellite at the Wisconsin Family Child Care Conference from April 30 to May 2 in Green Bay!

Attend a session. Satellite is presenting four professional development sessions at the conference. This is your opportunity to participate in:

- How to Create an Environment that Supports Children’s Ideas AND Maintains Your Boundaries
- Understanding Accreditation and the Satellite Family Child Care System
- Spark Curiosity: Loose Parts for Lifelong Play
- Incorporating Sensory Experiences That Meet the Needs of All Learners

Chat with us at our exhibit table. Satellite staff is available to discuss the accreditation system, professional learning, and quality improvement initiatives.

Join us at our social gathering. Friday night, beginning at 5:15 pm. Relax and connect with other Satellite educators. Enjoy pizza and more (we’ll have dairy free, vegetarian and gluten free options). The gathering is for family child care educators participating in Satellite’s accreditation system, Upward Milwaukee and Upward Madison.

Exchange your equipment and unit loans. Return or receive Satellite equipment and unit loans. Connect with your consultant in advance.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Play-Based Individualized Curriculum in Family Child Care

Children learn, grow, and develop through playful, self-directed experiences. We will explore the components of play-based learning and why we must protect this essential component of early childhood. You will learn how to plan play-based curriculum that follows the interests and cues of children in the program by collecting observations, gathering family input, and considering personal values. We will introduce strategies for evaluating and adapting curriculum to meet the emerging, complex needs of a mixed-age group that feels manageable as a family child care educator.

You will learn to...

- ✓ recognize the impact of playful learning in early childhood on independence, creativity, and boredom tolerance.
- ✓ plan responsive, play-based curriculum for a mixed-age group by collecting observations, gathering family input, and considering personal values.
- ✓ implement, evaluate, and adapt curriculum to meet the emerging needs of children and families.

March 24

6 – 8 pm*

1.5 hours of Registry credit

English & Spanish**

*Light dinner at 6 pm and training begins at 6:30 pm

**Closed captioning available in Spanish

Milwaukee Public Library

Villard Square Branch

5190 N 35th St

Milwaukee, WI 53209

[Click here to register!](#)





Exploring Quality in Family Child Care

Tuesdays • 1 – 2 pm • Zoom • 1 hour of Registry credit • English & Spanish

Dates	Topic	Registration
March 10	Promoting Friendship Skills	Register by 3/8
April 7	Preparing Future Readers Through Print Awareness	Register by 4/5
May 12	Why Children Need Large Motor Play	Register by 5/10
June 9	Child-Directed Play	Register by 6/7
July 7	Creating Inviting Play Areas	Register by 7/5

Evening Opportunities

Wednesdays • 6 – 8 pm • Zoom • 2 hours of Registry credit • English and Spanish

Dates	Event	Registration
July 22	The Power of Experimenting: Science Activities for Your Program	Register by 7/20

Milwaukee Learning Opportunities

Tuesdays • 6 – 8 pm • Milwaukee • 1.5 hours of Registry credit • English and Spanish

Dates	Event	Registration
March 24	Play-Based Individualized Curriculum in Family Child Care	Register by 3/17

Wisconsin Family Child Care Annual Conference

Green Bay • April 30 – May 2 • English • [Learn more here](#)

Date	Time	Session	Registration
May 1	9:30 – 12:15 pm	How to Create an Environment that Supports Children’s Ideas AND Maintains Your Boundaries	Register here
May 1	2:15 – 3:30 pm	Understanding Accreditation and the Satellite Family Child Care System	Register here
May 1	2:15 – 5:00 pm	Spark Curiosity: Loose Parts for Lifelong Play	Register here
May 2	11 – 12:15 pm	Incorporating Sensory Experiences That Meet the Needs of All Learners	Register here

Satellite Social Events

These opportunities are open to educators participating in Upward Milwaukee and Satellite's accreditation system.



Educator Appreciation Dinner

A dinner in honor of family child care professionals • 6 pm

Dates	Location	RSVP	🌐
April 10	Eau Claire	RSVP here	English
<i>New date!</i> May 13	Madison	RSVP here	English, Spanish
June 17	Milwaukee	RSVP here	English, Spanish
July 29	Sheboygan	RSVP here	English



Satellite Gatherings

Time for family child care professionals to spend together

Dates	Location	Time	RSVP	🌐
May 1	Green Bay	5:15-7 pm	RSVP here	English
October 3	Eau Claire	9:30-11:30 am	RSVP here	English
November 4	Milwaukee	6-8 pm	RSVP here	English, Spanish

Satellite Support Groups



Noche Latina

An evening for Spanish speaking family child care professionals.

6 – 8 pm • Spanish • 4709 Verona Road Madison • Contact evargas@reachdane.org with questions

March 11

April 8

June 10

July 8

August 12

September 9

October 14

November 11

December 5

Sojourn

A support group for Satellite family child care professionals that meets at family programs.

6:30 – 9 PM • Tuesdays • English • Madison area • RSVP to letthedragonsfly@gmail.com

March 10

April 14

May 12

June 9

July 14

August 11

September 8

October 13

November 10

December 8

Learn more about Satellite's support groups [here](#).

SATELLITE LOAN PROGRAM

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR RESOURCE LIBRARY

100+ books

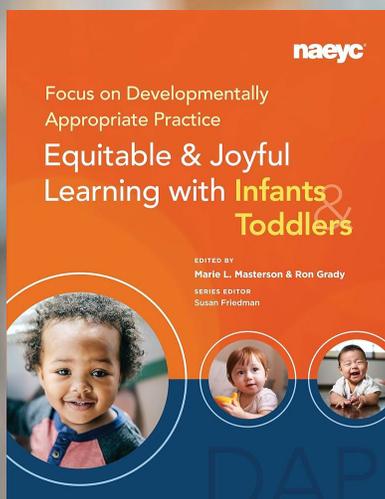
Satellite members have full access to Satellite's early childhood educator resource books. Check the link below to view our full lending options.

[Satellite's Library](#)

When you choose a book, your consultant will inform you of whether the item is available immediately or if you're on the waiting list.



Guided play is a powerful tool educators can use to help preschoolers and kindergartners learn essential knowledge and skills in the context of playful situations. Young children's natural curiosity and dynamic imaginations can lead to exciting and meaningful learning opportunities. Discover how to provide guided play experiences along with opportunities for unstructured play to support children's knowledge in key areas and their lifelong enjoyment and pursuit of learning.



If you've ever wondered how effective teachers actually do DAP with very young children, this is the book for you. Here, you can peek into classrooms to see teachers making intentional decisions in key areas of practice. You'll discover examples you can model, adapt, and implement in your own practice. Enrich and deepen your teaching, and enable children's learning to flourish!

HEALTH AND SAFETY

HEALTHY PLANET, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

See the resources below for environment-friendly child care information!

Green Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfection: A Toolkit for ECE

The Green Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting Toolkit presents practical information on how to keep early care and education (ECE) environments clean and safe using practices and products that are less hazardous and that protect young children and staff from infectious diseases.

[Click here to access the toolkit!](#)

Click on the text below to view examples of recourses found within the toolkit.

Non-chemical ways
to reduce the spread
of infectious disease

What is indoor air
quality and how is it
affected by cleaning?

Choosing safer
products to clean and
sanitize your home

ECO-Healthy Child Care

ECHO-Healthy Child Care helps early childhood learning environments to be as healthy, safe, and green as possible by reducing children's exposure to toxic chemicals.

[Click here to explore their fact sheets!](#)

Satellite Team



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Label mailed and hand delivered items with "attention:
Satellite" & and the Satellite staff person's name

Satellite Supports

To learn more about Satellite's numerous supports, click on the circle below.



Thank you to our partners for helping us provide these services at no cost to participants:

