



October 2025

Satellite

FAMILY CHILD CARE SYSTEM

NEWSLETTER

Congrats on your first Accreditation!



Bobbiejo Stepanek
Jojo's Family Childcare

Congrats on your Reaccreditation!



Ana Bertha Ramirez
Hogar del Niño

Tricia Nellen
Tricia's Harmony House



Did you know?

Between April and June, Satellite consultants made 2188 contacts (email, phone, text) with Satellite programs.



Safety Saturday

CPR, first aid, and car seat safety – OH MY!

We offered a day full of FREE health and safety training available to all early childhood educators participating in Satellite's accreditation system.



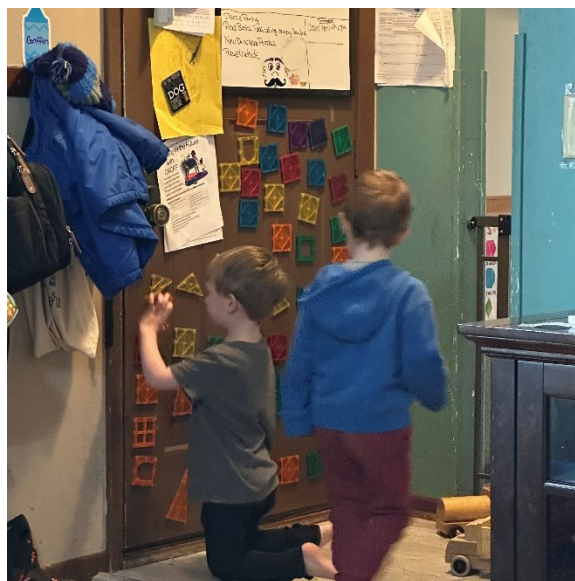
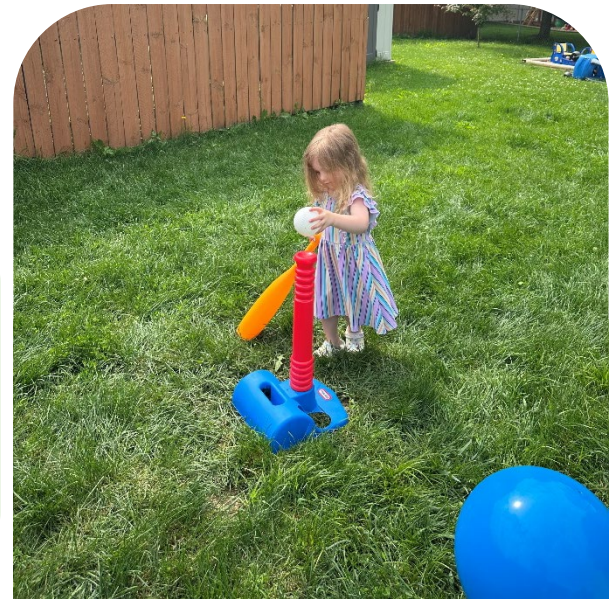
FAMILY CHILD CARE PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Jojo's Family Childcare

Program owner: Bobbiejo Stepanek

Accredited Satellite educator

As a family childcare provider, it is important to me that parents/guardians and their children feel like my home is a safe and welcoming place. I strive to ensure each family and child feels welcome and like they belong in our group and out in the world. I believe the feeling of safety and belonging is crucial to children's growth and development. I think this is one of my strongest points when it comes to being a childcare provider.



At the beginning and throughout their time at Jo Jo's Family Childcare, I like to get to know what the children and families like to do at home. What their favorite foods and activities are, their home language, their pets' names, and who their extended families/favorite people are. To help the children feel at home, I let them bring a comfort item to daycare each day.



I take the time to include their favorite foods in our menu. Learn some words in their home language, ensure we have activities and reading materials that are in their home language, reflect their cultures, and include things individual children are interested in. Knowing these types of things and putting in the effort to include their family's interests and culture, helps each family and child feel like they are important and that they belong.

DIVING INTO THE STANDARDS

Emotional Availability



Relevant Satellite Accreditation Standards

I. Interactions and Relationships

A. The provider's verbal and non-verbal communication with children helps build positive relationships and conveys support, respect and trust.

8. The provider offers comfort and reassurance when children show distress, fear, or discomfort.



Learning 4 Life



Little Smiles with Big Dreams



Flourish Family Childcare

The Basics

Emotional availability refers to the **quality** of an adult-child **emotional connection** (Saunders et al., 2015).

Adults with high emotional availability provide children...

- *sensitivity* – the capacity to maintain a positive emotional connection
- *structuring* – the readiness to offer guidance and set limits
- *non-intrusiveness* – the willingness to follow the child's lead
- *non-hostility* – the ability to remain calm

Stress, burnout, mental health, and personal history may contribute to an adult's ability to provide any or all of the above components. Internal and external demands, like the work expectations of a family child care educator, may also contribute to one's ability to be emotionally available.

Why is emotional availability essential? Young children rely on adults as a **secure base** for times of exploration and a **safe haven** for moments of distress, fear, or discomfort. This responsive pattern of exploration and safety supports children's self-regulation and emotional well-being, laying a foundation for future physical and mental health and academic success (Bendel-Stenzel et al., 2022). In the absence of an emotionally available adult, young children experience prolonged, heightened stress and display decreased empathy and social disengagement (Panfile & Liable, 2012).

DIVING INTO THE STANDARDS

Emotional Availability (Cont.)

[How do I practice emotional availability?](#) Family child care educators hold the emotional experience of multiple children of mixed ages. It is nonessential and impractical to remain emotionally available to every child always. Research indicates that access to an emotionally responsive and supportive adult at least 50% of the time is sufficient for supporting children's development (Woodhouse, 2020). Below are strategies for supporting children's diverse needs for a secure base and safe haven in early learning programs.

Secure base	Safe haven
<i>Intentional educators strive to...</i>	<i>Intentional educators strive to...</i>
share in children's excitement and joy	remain in close proximity
support children's problem solving	welcome children's coming to you
establish boundaries and set limits	empathize with and validate emotions
follow children's lead	provide comfort and reassurance
celebrate children's discoveries	offer physical touch and affection
find non-interruptive ways to engage in play	check in with children during play

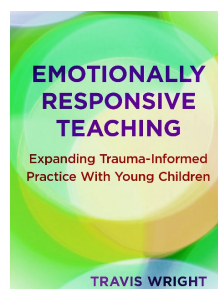
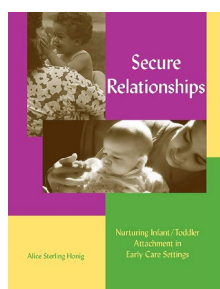
I want to learn more!

- [You're the best teacher! Responsive Interactions with Young Children](#) (Resource)
- [Promoting Young Children's Social and Emotional Health](#) (Article)
- [Emotional availability: Theory, research, and intervention](#) (Research article)
- [Responsive Care: Nurturing a Strong Attachment Through Everyday Moments](#) (Video)

Books available through Satellite's lending library:

(for Satellite participating programs only)

- *Secure Relationships: Nurturing Infant/Toddler Attachment in Early Care Settings* (Honig, 2002)
- *Emotionally Responsive Teaching: Expanding Trauma-Informed Practice With Young Children* (Wright, 2023)
- *Being with Babies: Understanding and Responding to the Infants in Your Care* (Kovach, 2008)



Upcoming Professional Development



Exploring Quality in Family Child Care: Word Play

Word play is auditory and visual experience with the sounds and rhythm of language. This course will explore how adults play a key role in supporting children's development beginning at birth by providing rich experiences with oral and written language. Participants will learn the components of phonological awareness and its connection to reading acquisition. Ashley Harrell, Milwaukee-based early childhood leader, will introduce how to incorporate word play with a mixed-age group through experiences like word games, songs, nursery rhymes, play with blending and segmenting, and rhythmic children's literature.

Watch the recording on our [YouTube channel](#)! (Coming soon)



Making it Work: Incorporating Rich Art Experiences into a Mixed-Age Setting

Art nurtures a wide variety of developmental benefits for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school agers, but what makes it meaningful? How can you plan and offer art in a mixed-age group? Come learn strategies for supporting children's creative expression in family child care through planning and implementing process-based, developmentally appropriate art opportunities. Featuring consultant Stephanie Winkel and contributions by family child care professional Tara Ebben. Together we will explore considerations for mixed-age groups, including maintaining safety, preventing overwhelming mess, and developing shared responsibility.

October 29 • 6 – 8 PM • Zoom • English and Spanish • 2 hours of Registry credit

[Register here](#) by 10/27



Exploring Quality in Family Child Care

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

Dates	Topic	Registration
November 4	How Adults Support Children’s Emotions	Register by 11/2
December 2	Rich Sensory Experiences	Register by 11/30
February 10	PBS Kids Presents: Developmentally Appropriate Media	Register by 2/8

Evening Opportunities

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

Dates	Event	Registration
October 29	Making it Work: Incorporating Rich Art Experiences into a Mixed-Age Setting	Register by 10/27

ECHO Family Child Care Cohort

Wednesdays • 6 – 7 pm • Zoom • 4 hours of Registry credit

Learn strategies to support inclusive family child care for children identified with a special health or development need through four discussion-based evening sessions. Learn more information [here](#).

Language	Dates				Registration
English only	January 7	January 21	February 4	February 18	Register by 1/5
Spanish only	March 4	March 18	April 1	April 15	Register by 3/2

Guided Book Studies

Thursdays • 1 – 2 pm • Zoom • 16 hours of Registry credit • English only

Only for programs participating in Satellite’s accreditation system.

Dates	Book	Registration
February 12 – April 2	The Musical Child: Using the Power of Music to Raise Children Who Are Happy, Healthy, and Whole	Register by 1/2

Satellite Social Events

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



Satellite Gatherings

Time for family child care professionals to spend together.

Dates

November 5

Location

Milwaukee area

RSVP

Coming soon



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

October 8

December 10

Sojourn

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

Evening • Second Tuesday of every month • English • Madison area • RSVP to letthedragonsfly@gmail.com

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

SATELLITE LOAN PROGRAM

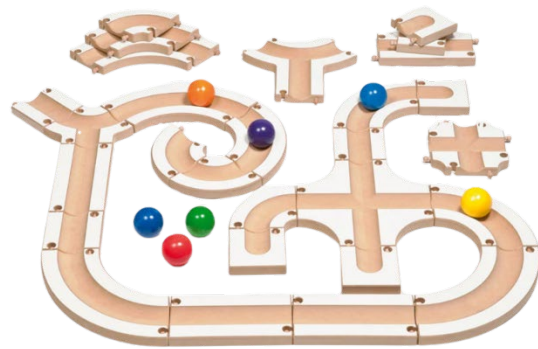
Satellite members have full access to Satellite's equipment and curriculum units. Check the link below regularly to view our full lending options. When you sign up for equipment and units, your consultant will inform you of whether the item is available immediately or if you're on the waitlist.

Pick-up and drop-off of equipment and units occurs during consultant visits to your program. Additional exchanges of equipment and units may occur at the Satellite office. Communicate with your consultant to determine a day and time when Satellite staff are present.

Satellite Equipment & Units Loans



Rocking Boat



Puzzle Ball Track



Jumbo Magnetic Building Tiles

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Let's play outside!

Below are resources focused on outdoor play and its benefits for physical and mental health. Click on the text to learn more.

Photos from Scribbles and Giggles Family Child Care

Playing Outside: Why it's Important for Kids



Why Kids Need to Spend Time in Nature



The Benefits of the Outdoors on Children's Mental Health



SATELLITE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Satellite deeply values input from those within the family child care community.

At each Advisory Committee meeting, the facilitator presents information about Satellite's support services and/or accreditation and then asks committee members related open-ended questions. Committee members are encouraged to use their unique backgrounds, personal and professional roles, and experiences as they share their perceptions and ideas.

Satellite's facilitator actively listens with the goal of utilizing committee members' expertise and experiences to strengthen the Satellite Family Child Care System.



Amy Nogar

Advisory Committee Member
Accredited Family Child Care Educator

Terri Lynn Alexander

Advisory Committee Member
Accredited Family Child Care Educator



Shelly Boelter

Advisory Committee Member
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Becca Munoz

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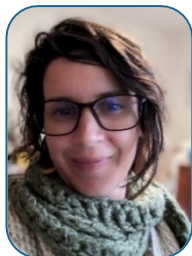
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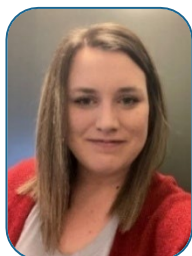
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Label mailed and hand delivered items with "attention:
Satellite" & and the Satellite staff person's name

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:

