

Satellite Family Child Care System

2025 Quarter 1 Report

Satellite Family Child Care System, established in 1975, currently serves family child care programs throughout Wisconsin with accreditation and support services.

Satellite's Accreditation Standards

Family child care programs achieving accreditation are recognized as meeting the highest standards in home-based early care and education. The Satellite Accreditation Standards allow programs the flexibility to implement high quality, research-based practices through a lens honoring diversity and child-centered care. The standards are organized into six areas of core competencies:

- Interactions and Relationships
- Physical Environment, Equipment and Materials
- Daily Program for Children
- Supporting Children's Development
- Health, Safety and Nutrition in the Family Child Care Home
- Business Management and Professionalism

Satellite's Support Services

Family child care programs participating in Satellite's accreditation system have access to a variety of support services. Those opportunities include:

- Individualized, ongoing support from an accreditation consultant
- Unit, equipment, resource & book loans
- Program and child assessment tools
- Professional development
- Networking & leadership opportunities, including family child care support groups
- Mentorship program
- Family referral system



Participation in Satellite

Affiliate programs are new to Satellite, often having joined within the last 0-2 years. These programs are beginning their work towards meeting all accreditation standards and becoming fully accredited.

Associate programs are on the second step of the journey to accreditation. They have often been participating in Satellite for between 6 months-3 years. These programs are working towards meeting all accreditation standards and becoming fully accredited.

Accredited programs: Family child care programs achieving accreditation are recognized as meeting the highest standards in home-based early care and education. The Satellite Accreditation Standards allow programs the flexibility to implement high quality, research-based practices through a lens honoring diversity and child-centered care. The standards are organized into six areas of core competencies:

- Interactions and Relationships
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- Business Management and Professionalism

Once a program is accredited, it must continue to meet the Satellite Accreditation Standards to maintain that status. Every 18-21 months, the program participates in a reaccreditation process.

95 Family Child Care Programs
Participate in
Satellite's Accreditation System

Northern-2
2 Affiliate

Western-6
4 Affiliate
2 Associate

Northeastern-15
6 Affiliate
4 Associate
5 Accredited

Southern-59*

Entire region:
8 Affiliate
8 Associate
43 Accredited

Madison only:
5 Affiliate
4 Associate
24 Accredited

Southeastern-13
7 Affiliate
4 Associate
2 Accredited

Program category movement January 1-March 31, 2024	New affiliate programs	New associate programs	Newly accredited programs	Newly reaccredited
YoungStar Region: Southern*	0	1	1	2
<i>City of Madison*</i>	0	1	0	2
YoungStar Region: Southeast	0	2	0	1
Youngstar Region: Western	1	1	0	0
YoungStar Region: Northern	0	0	0	0
YoungStar Region: Northeast	0	2	1	0
total	1	6	2	3

* Data for the city of Madison is pulled out separately and also embedded in the data for the Southern region

Satellite Consultation and Support: Satellite is a strength-based model, working on increases in quality from each program’s unique starting place while simultaneously supporting programs so that they have the resources, knowledge, and community they need to have a successful, sustainable family child care business.

The quality improvement process begins when the family child care program owner completes an application and is accepted into Satellite’s accreditation system. The consultant and program owner meet at a minimum of quarterly working on steps to align the program with Satellite’s accreditation standards while providing requested supports. Resources and support provided are customized to each family child care provider’s needs, interests and current understanding of quality measures.

After achieving accreditation, the consultant and provider continue to meet at least quarterly to continue this work in a process of ongoing quality improvement and support.

Satellite’s Loan Program (equipment, curriculum units and resource books): Satellite’s loan library, equipment, and curriculum units are quality improvement and supportive tools available to Satellite participants.

- The library includes topics in early childhood education, family child care business and program assessment.
- Theme-based curriculum units guide providers in curriculum development and implementation. Their contents support children’s development in the areas of STEM, language, social-emotional, and motor skills.
- Equipment loans such as climbers, lofts, unit blocks, and bicycles offer exposure to items providers can consider purchasing for their programs and allow providers with little storage space or available funds a rotation of high-quality equipment.
- As needed, providers may work with their consultant to learn how their equipment, curriculum and environment interact to align with quality standards. Coaching in topics like the child care environment, child development, learning opportunities and curriculum implementation is supported by book, equipment and unit loans.

Satellite Supports 2025	Total	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
Newsletters	3	3			
Gathering in community	4	4			
Consultant visits in programs	202	202			
Other consultant contacts	1771	1771			
Loan program					
Resource books	10	10			
Curriculum units	205	205			
Equipment	426	426			

Satellite Professional Learning 2025	Total	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
Professional learning hours offered	24	24			
Total attendees	265	265			

Professional Learning

January – March 2025

Exploring Quality in Family Child Care: Open-Ended Questions introduced techniques for providing open-ended statements that develop children’s thinking, vocabulary, and social-emotional skills. The course explored how adults support meaningful conversations and expand learning for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school agers with open-ended questions. Grace Eilers facilitated this training on Tuesday, January 7 from 1 – 2 pm. The event took place on Zoom. All family child care providers in the state of Wisconsin were invited to participate. There were 31 participants in attendance.

Exploring Quality in Family Child Care: Risky Play explored the importance of providing opportunities for children to engage in risky play in early childhood settings. Participants learned what is risky play, why it is important for children’s development, and how it can be safely implemented in family child care programs. The event included videos from interviews with family child care educators Amy Nogar (Amy & Kids Co. Nature Playschool) and Lynda Nelson (Happy Hearts Childcare). Grace Eilers facilitated this training on Tuesday, February 4 from 1 – 2 pm. The event took place on Zoom. All family child care providers in the state of Wisconsin were invited to participate. There were 49 participants in attendance.

Transitions Throughout the Day: Strategies, Skills, and Wisdom from Satellite Programs introduced how to plan and establish consistent routines with a mixed-age group. Participants learned from a panel of Satellite family child care professionals: Mary Jo Flocca (Little Rascals Family Daycare), Shannon Davis ("Let the Dragons Fly" Child Care), Alison Joseph (The Playhouse), Maria Sandoval (Sopelick Family Day Care), and Brandee Crabb (Waddle-In Family Childcare). The panel highlighted their skills and showcased their strategies for smooth transitions. The event included videos from an interview with family child care educator Terri Lynn Alexander (Pine Bough Child Care). Grace Eilers facilitated this

training on Wednesday, February 19 from 6 – 8 pm. The event took place on Zoom. All family child care providers in the state of Wisconsin were invited to participate. There were 73 participants in attendance.

Supporting Multilingual Children in Early Childhood Classrooms discussed ways to support multilingual children and their families in early childhood settings. This workshop explored children's identity and language development, partnerships and advocacy with families, and cultural and linguistic practices to support young learners. Amy Christianson facilitated this training on Friday, February 21 from 9:15 – 10:45 am. The event took place at the Early Learning Connections Conference at 6000 American Parkway in Madison. The conference attracted family and group child care providers throughout the southern region of Wisconsin. There were 30 participants in attendance.

Bringing Movement and Connection into Early Childhood Programs explored the benefits of mindful movement and mindful awareness and discussed and practiced ways of incorporating these into family child care settings. Some examples included bringing more movement into circle times in a variety of ways, using mindfulness in transitions, and using song to promote social connectedness. Jen Jorgensen and Rachel Halstead facilitated this training on Saturday, February 22 from 9:15 – 10:45 am. The event took place at the Early Learning Connections Conference at 6000 American Parkway in Madison. The conference attracted family and group child care providers throughout the southern region of Wisconsin. There were 17 participants in attendance.

Equitable and Joyful Learning with Infants and Toddlers Guided Book Study explored *Focus on Developmentally Appropriate Practice: Equitable and Joyful Learning with Infants and Toddlers* by Marie Masterson (2024). Over eight discussion-driven sessions, participants learned strategies for supporting infants' and toddlers' emerging language, cognitive, and social-emotional skills through relationships and evidence-based practices. The course explored how to use observation, documentation, and reflection to plan engaging curriculum for infants and toddlers in family child care settings. The course included group discussions and opportunities for family child care providers to connect, explore, and learn together. Family child care educator Betty-Anne White and Grace Eilers facilitated the cohort's discussion on Zoom every Thursday from 1 – 2 pm from January 9 – February 27. All family child care providers in the state of Wisconsin were invited to participate. Satellite Family Child Care System purchased books for participants. 12 participants completed the course.

Exploring Quality in Family Child Care: Supporting Infant's Large Motor Development explored gross motor milestones throughout the first year of life, the unique benefits of floor play, and pediatric recommendations for the use of infant containers (for example, bouncers, activity chairs, and swings). Participants learned how to safely engage infants in floor play, including tummy time, in a mixed-aged environment. Occupational Therapist Gretchen Becker-Crabb facilitated this training on Tuesday, March 11 from 1 – 2 pm. The event took place on Zoom. All family child care providers in the state of Wisconsin were invited to participate. There were 53 participants in attendance.

Outreach

January – March 2025

Waunakee Neighborhood Connection: On Monday, February 24, 2025, Amy Christianson (Director of Language Access, Curriculum and Satellite) met with Lidia Silva Rios, Community Resource Manager at Waunakee Neighborhood Connection. This non-profit community-based agency supports vulnerable families with resources, programs and services. Connections were made to share information about Satellite Family Child Care System and educators in Satellite who reside in the Waunakee area.

Satellite Representation and Collaborations in 2025

Wisconsin Family Child Care Association (WFCCA): A Satellite representative (Laura Simkin, Satellite Associate Director) sits on the board of WFCCA. Satellite's role with WFCCA is to provide resources and support for the association as a community partner, along with providing information about Satellite's services and accreditation program. This quarter, the board met January 4 and March 1.

Be Heart Madison—Community Pyramid Model Implementation— Satellite's Associate Director Laura Simkin and Accreditation Consultant Mykenzie Lerg represent Satellite within this group, dedicated to a community-wide implementation of the Pyramid Model.

Milwaukee ECE Coalition: Satellite Accreditation Consultant Rachel Halstead and Satellite Associate Director Laura Simkin represent Satellite as members of this coalition, whose work is focused on identifying and responding to pressing needs in Milwaukee's early childhood education sector. These include increased access to quality and affordable ECE for Milwaukee's Black and Brown families; increased recruitment, retention, compensation, and professionalization among Milwaukee's ECE workforce. The coalition includes 200 members, including early childhood educators, stakeholders, parents and community members. This quarter, the Milwaukee ECE Coalition met on January 10, February 7 and March 7.

Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health (WI-AIHM): Satellite is participating in a pilot program for WI-AIHM's launch of Pyramid Model coaching in family child care programs. Satellite and WI-AIHM entered into a contractual agreement to provide intensive coaching in social and emotional programming in two Satellite family child care programs. This partnership expanded to include a pilot of the Pyramid Model Family Child Care E-Modules with a reflective coaching component. Two cohorts are participating in this experience in early 2025. Mykenzie Lerg, Satellite Accreditation Consultant, is the implementing coach.

Early Learning Connections: Associate Director Laura Simkin is on the planning committee for the annual Early Learning Connections Conference. This Madison-area early childhood conference brought together community partners including Madison Metropolitan School District, 4Cs, WECA, Reach Dane, City of Madison Child Care Unit, and the Department of Children and Families for a two-day early childhood conference February 21-22, 2025. Planning for the 2026 conference begins soon.

Partners

Funding Satellite's Accreditation and Support Services

City of Madison—For decades, Satellite has contracted with the city's Child Care Unit to provide accreditation and support for family child care programs in Madison. The city offers additional support to our participants, including stabilization funds to increase the income of programs who are taking low-income families and occasional professional development opportunities.

Madison College—Satellite and Madison College entered a new partnership in 2023. Madison College is supporting the cost of accreditation and support to programs near their 7 southern Wisconsin campuses. Students at Madison College are eligible to receive an enhanced family referral process when looking for child care within Satellite's participating child care programs.

Shine Early Learning—In 2023, a new partnership formed "YoungStar Connect", which includes collaboration among many of early childhood agencies in Wisconsin, including Satellite. Satellite receives funding through this partnership for the accreditation and support of 90 family child care programs outside of Madison. This partnership also provides for the Family Child Care Content Specialist position, which accounts for our ability to dramatically increase our professional development offerings.

University of Madison—Office of Child Care and Family Resources (OCCFR)—Satellite and UW-OCCFR have a long-standing relationship. UW-Madison students, staff and faculty are eligible to receive an enhanced family referral process when looking for child care within Satellite's participating child care programs. UW-OCCFR provides additional funding to Satellite for our accreditation and support services, funding for Satellite staff and program professional development, and regular gifts—including many beautiful children's books--to our programs.

**Satellite is incredibly grateful to those
providing the resources so we may do this important work.**

Thank you!

Group Events for our Educators

January – March 2025

Community Gathering, Southern region: On January 22, Satellite facilitated a community gathering for programs in the southern region. We met at Reach Dane's South Madison site. 11 educators braved the snowy night to enjoy dinner, socializing, Lotería and other board games. Satellite consultant Jen Jorgensen organized the event. The focus of Satellite gatherings is to provide a social and networking opportunities for our educators, strengthening their support systems and providing an enjoyable evening together.



Community Gathering, Northeast region: On February 26, Satellite facilitated a community gathering for programs in the northeast region. We met at the Child Care Resource and Referral in Kimberly. 6 educators enjoyed dinner, socializing, and a watercolor activity. Satellite consultants Stephanie Winkel and Jen Jorgensen organized the event. The focus of Satellite gatherings is to provide a social and networking opportunities for our educators, strengthening their support systems and providing an enjoyable evening together.



Educator Appreciation Dinner, Western region: On March 9, 6 Satellite educators (program owners and staff) gathered at Child Care Partnerships in Eau Claire for the first 2025 regional Satellite Educator Appreciation event. Local Satellite educators and Satellite staff enjoyed dinner from California Tacos and great conversation. Our regional appreciation events provide time for our educators to be a bit pampered and feel deeply appreciated, get to know other educators in their area, strengthen relationships, and network.



Noche Latina: An event for Spanish-speaking, Satellite affiliated family child care educators held at Satellite's office. Noche Latina aspires to build a network of supportive relationships. Events include socializing, meeting new educators, networking and brief Satellite updates. We also have a lot of fun! Satellite consultant Estella Vargas leads this group. This quarter, Noche Latina met on March 12. 20 family child care educators participated, sharing food, stories and relaxing together.



2025 Surveys of Programs

Enrollment Data

Results from 100% of Satellite family child care programs

All Satellite Programs	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
Children in Satellite programs	686			
Recipients of Wisconsin Shares	161 23%			

City of Madison data	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
Children in Satellite programs	181			
Recipients of City of Madison Child Care Assistance	3			
Recipients of Wisconsin Shares	42			

University of Wisconsin-Madison data	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
Children 0-1 years old with a parent who is UW-staff	2			
Children 2 years old with parent who is UW-staff	9			
Children 3-5 years old with parent who is UW-staff	7			
Children 6-12 years old with parent who is UW-Staff	2			
Children 0-1 years old with a parent who is UW-faculty	4			
Children 2 years old with parent who is UW-faculty	2			
Children 3-5 years old with parent who is UW-faculty	4			
Children 6-12 years old with parent who is UW-faculty	2			
Children 0-1 years old with a parent who is a UW-student	5			
Children 2 years old with parent who is a UW-student	0			
Children 3-5 years old with parent who is a UW-student	0			
Children 6-12 years old with parent who is a UW-student	6			

Madison College data	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
Children with a parent who is a Madison College student	16			

Family Referral Data

We support Satellite accredited programs by connecting family child care programs with families looking for high quality early care and education through our referral system. Families may choose to complete the "Find Satellite accredited family child care programs" referral form on [Satellite's website](#), call or email us.

Families contacting Satellite receive a list of all Satellite accredited programs and the openings list. Madison College students receive an additional list of Satellite affiliate and associate level program openings within 30 miles of Madison, Reedsburg, Watertown, Portage and Fort Atkinson Madison College Campuses.

Total* referrals connecting families to Satellite program child care openings

All Satellite Programs	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
Referrals to families	59			
Total children needing child care	69			

University of Wisconsin-Madison data*	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
UW students	12			
UW staff	22			
UW faculty	8			
Total children needing child care	36			

**Some families have multiple associations and are included in each disaggregated category. These families are listed once in the total number of referrals.*

Madison College data	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
Madison College students	7			
Total children needing child care	11			

Child age and desired schedule for child care openings		Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
0-2 years old Total: 60	0-2 years old part-time schedule	14			
	0-2 years old full-time schedule	29			
	0-2 years, either full or part time schedule	17			
3-5 years old Total: 7	3-5 years old part-time schedule	2			
	3-5 years old full-time schedule	5			
	3-5 years, either full or part time schedule	0			
6+ years old Total: 2	6+ years old part-time schedule	1			
	6+ years old full-time schedule	1			
	6+ years, either full or part time schedule	0			

Paying for Child Care—*Data based on family referrals*

Families seeking child care and planning to use tuition assistance	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025
Child Care Tuition Assistance Program (UW-OCCFR)	4			
City of Madison child care assistance	0			
Wisconsin Shares	7			
No plans to use tuition support	48			

Satellite Family Child Care Program Owner Demographics

as of 3/31/25

Race	#	%
White/Caucasian	59	66%
Black/African American	12	13%
Asian	2	2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	--
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0	--
Multi-racial	7	8%
Balance / Other	1	1%
Prefer not to answer*	8	9%

Ethnicity	#	%
Hispanic or Latino	25	28%
Not Hispanic or Latino	64	72%
Prefer not to answer	0	--

*All 8 individuals indicating that "Prefer not to answer" for race chose "Hispanic/Latino" for ethnicity.

Gender	#	%
Female	88	99%
Male	0	--
Non-binary	0	--
Transgender	1	1%
Other	0	--

Household Size	#	%
1	7	8%
2	25	28%
3	15	17%
4	25	28%
5	13	15%
6+	4	4%

Age	#	%
18-29 years old	3	3%
30-59 years old	77	87%
60-74 years old	9	10%
75 and older	0	--
Prefer not to answer	0	--

Disability Status	#	%
Disabled	1	1%
Not disabled	87	98%
Prefer not to answer	1	1%