

Satellite Family Child Care System

Why we care.

Family child care comprises nearly half of regulated child care in Wisconsin and is particularly essential in rural communities. It offers unique benefits to children and families, including small group sizes, a mixed-age model, a home-like environment, and continuity of care. Currently, only 6% of family child care programs in Wisconsin are rated as high-quality through the quality rating and improvement system. High-quality early care and education lays a foundation for long-term physical, mental, and societal health.

What we do.

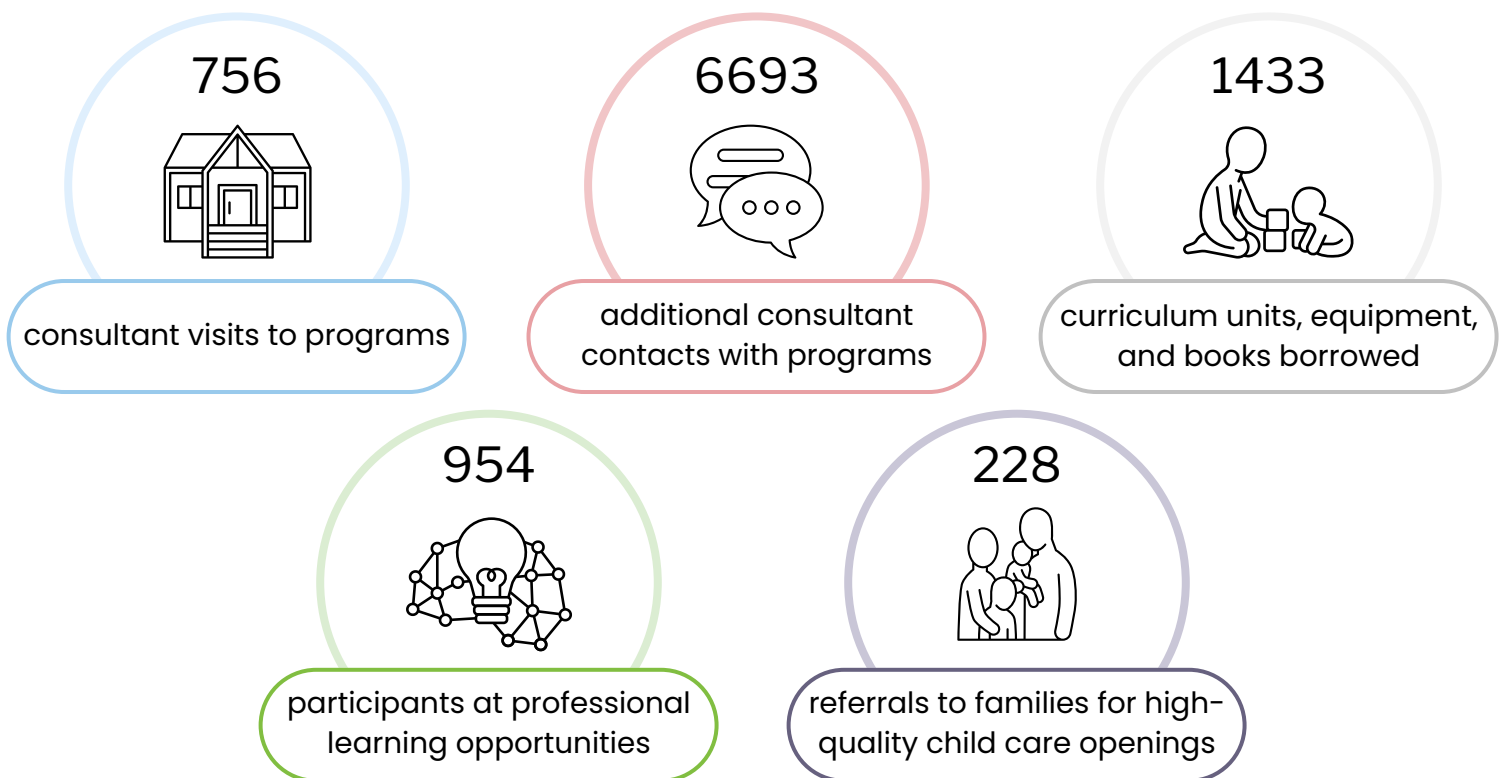
Satellite's mission is to promote high-quality care and education for children through a multi-faceted accreditation and support system for family child care programs. Programs engage with us on a journey of professional growth and quality improvement, aiming for accreditation. Family child care programs 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.

How we impact.

Satellite offers family child care programs...

- an accreditation consultant
- equipment and curriculum unit loans
- program assessment resources
- developmental screening & assessment tools
- professional learning opportunities
- a family referral system
- regional social events
- support groups
- a mentoring program
- leadership opportunities

In 2024, Satellite accomplished...



Hear from those impacted.

The Satellite standards align with my core beliefs in how children learn and what they need in these early years. I am so excited to be able to be true to myself and have my program recognized as high-quality. As I continue to undo the years of external pressure, I will continue to provide a high-quality play-based, child-led program, while also educating parents on the benefits of play, showcasing how they are learning.

- Accredited Satellite family child care educator

Satellite accreditation has given me the opportunity to improve my program and become more knowledgeable on what a high-quality early childhood program consists of. The mentorship, support, training, and networking allow me to meet licensing requirements and gain much needed support and guidance in a career that can be very isolated.

- Accredited Satellite family child care educator

Through Satellite's guidance, training, and unwavering encouragement, we've grown stronger as a team and more intentional in our care. Your tools and resources empowered us to meet and exceed expectations, fostering a nurturing, high-quality learning environment for the children and families we serve. Thank you for believing in me, pushing me to grow, and standing alongside us every step of the way. I am proud to be part of a network that values excellence and is dedicated to the success of early childhood programs.

- Accredited Satellite family child care educator

Being accredited is a great achievement in my life, both personally and in my education. The most valuable thing for me was having my accreditation consultant's support. I didn't really know much about the Satellite Accreditation Standards. My consultant taught me a lot of things to achieve my goal. She was always there to support me because it was very difficult for me. With her support, I managed to become accredited.

- Accredited Satellite family child care educator

I am glad that my childcare provider receives both support and education for her career as my child benefits greatly from these supports. I feel safe sending my child to such a qualified provider.

- Family member of child attending an accredited program

How you can help.

It takes \$5,000 per year to support new programs and \$3,000 per year to support accredited programs.

Ready to support Satellite Family Child Care System's mission to bring high-quality family child care to children, families, and communities throughout Wisconsin?

Contact us!

(608) 381-2676

satellitefcc@reachdane.org



Professional Development

Why we care.

Professional development is an essential component of high-quality early childhood education. It combines instruction, discussion, and self-reflection to promote evidence-based practice among early childhood educators, producing optimal child outcomes. Effective professional development applies a variety of methods to transfer knowledge, skills, and educational perspectives among participants. Ongoing professional growth supports educators' understanding and use of current recommendations for teaching and nurturing our society's youngest learners.

What we do.

Satellite offers free bilingual (English–Spanish) professional development to family child care educators throughout the state of Wisconsin. We emphasize adult learners as rich sources of knowledge, experiences, and perspectives. Satellite offers a variety of methods to engage educators of all backgrounds and learning preferences, including specialized training, recorded webinars, communities of practice, and book studies. Satellite's professional development focuses on home-based programming with mixed-age groups. This enhances positive change within family child care programs and transferred benefits to children and families.

How we impact.

In 2024, Satellite's professional development included...

118



hours of professional
learning opportunities

15



subject matter expert
speakers

61



Wisconsin family child care
programs featured

How you can help.

Help support us to deliver free, bilingual professional development. It takes \$145,000 per year to offer professional development and \$2600 to sponsor one two-hour event.

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Mentoring Program

Why we care.

Mentoring is a relationship-based process between colleagues in similar professional roles, with a more experienced individual (the mentor) providing guidance and example to the less experienced (the mentee). The mentoring relationship builds professional capacity and community for both the mentor and mentee. The mentee receives individualized, ongoing support and encouragement to increase skills, knowledge, and confidence. In supporting the mentee, the mentor strengthens their interpersonal, leadership, and communication skills.

What we do.

Operating a family child care program can be an isolating experience. Satellite's mentoring program connects experienced Satellite educators with those who are new or simply desire a mentoring connection. Satellite mentors must operate a Satellite accredited family child care program—or—have retired from an accredited program. Mentors receive a stipend to honor their knowledge, skills and time. Mentees may be participants of Satellite at any level (affiliate, associate, accredited) and request support in the following topics:

- Business and administration of family child care programs
- Curriculum, activities, environment & other program planning
- Working with families
- Supporting children's needs



How you can help.

It takes \$26,000 per year to run the mentoring program and \$1300 to sponsor one mentor-mentee relationship.

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Equipment and Unit Loan Program

Why we care.

Children in settings with stimulating, engaging materials develop better physical, cognitive, language, and social-emotional skills. High-quality early education programs rotate materials based on children's unique interests and developmental needs. Family child care educators, being the lowest paid subgroup in the early childhood field with an average pay of \$7.46 per hour, have limited access to purchase high-quality materials.

What we do.

Satellite offers...

- **theme-based curriculum units** to guide educators in curriculum development and implementation. Their contents support children's development in the areas of STEM, language, social-emotional, and motor skills.
- **high-quality equipment** such as climbers, lofts, shelves, and unit blocks to offer exposure to items educators can consider purchasing for their programs and allow programs with little storage space or operational funds an available rotation.
- **resource book library** with content in early childhood education, family child care business, and program assessment to be utilized in programs' quality improvement journey.

How we impact.

In 2024, Satellite's equipment and unit loan program lended...



How you can help.

It takes \$45,000 per year to operate and maintain and \$450 per year to sponsor one program to participate in the loan program.

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Professional Community

Why we care.

Family child care educators often work in isolation with limited interaction with other adults, especially those in the same profession. Professional communities offer educators spaces to socialize with, learn from, feel connected to, and lean on others in the family child care profession. Offering opportunities for social connection among family child care educators minimizes work-related stress and increases professional identity, both key for maintaining high-quality practice and workforce sustainability.

What we do.

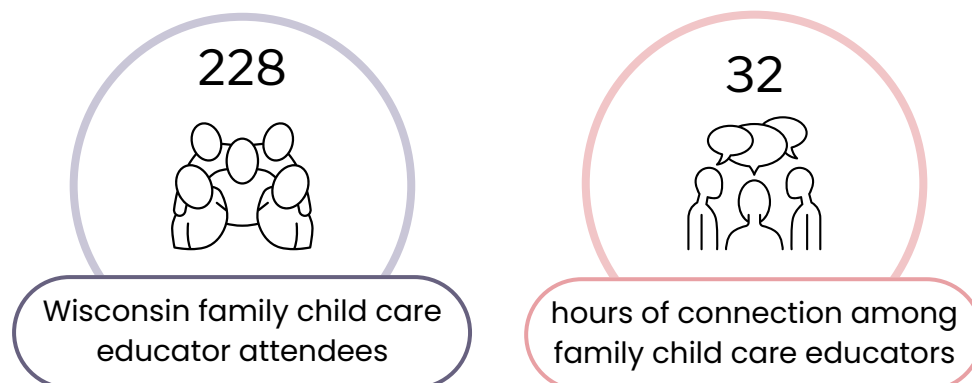
Satellite builds community among family child care educators in Wisconsin by offering a variety of opportunities for professional networking. Consistent opportunities to connect with other educators in the same region broadens the support network of family child care programs. Newly formed or sustaining relationships among educators provide much needed solidarity and offer outlets for sharing professional failures and successes. Our events aim to honor and celebrate the important work family child care educators do every day.

Satellite builds professional community across Wisconsin by offering...

- **educator appreciation events** to celebrate and bring together family child care educators within the same region to relax, socialize, share a meal, and receive gifts of appreciation.
- **social gatherings** to connect family child care educators within the same region to share a meal and participate in a social activity like board games or art.
- **Noche Latina** to provide an intentional and essential monthly community for Spanish speaking family child care educators in the Madison area.

How we impact.

In 2024, Satellite's professional community building events resulted in...



Professional Community

Hear from those impacted.

One benefit of having my program accredited through Satellite is being able to participate in Satellite's social events. During these gatherings, us family child care providers are provided space where we feel appreciated, uplifted, and feel noticed that the work we do can be hard. Many of these dinners include a gift of appreciation for our work. Whether a small self-care basket or a heavy bag of 25 books for our program, we leave feeling appreciated. We socialize together and have time and space to network with other ECE professionals who love their work. It is a space to develop new friendships with like-minded individuals.

- Accredited Satellite family child care educator

Satellite social events get me out of the house. The first time I went to a Satellite social event, I met some provider friend, and in this business of doing in-home childcare, you want friends in the same business you in. We share ideas and go to training. I really do appreciate all that Satellite offers to my program.

- Accredited Satellite family child care educator

How you can help.

It takes \$1000 to offer Noche Latina to Spanish speaking educators in the Madison area each year.

Satellite Gathering and Educator Appreciation Dinner event cost varies by region. See the table below for more details.

Region	Satellite Gathering Sponsorship	Educator Appreciation Dinner Sponsorship
Northeastern	\$1300	\$2200
Southern	\$1400	\$4600
Southeastern	\$1200	\$2100
Western	\$1400	\$1800

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Why we care.

Family child care programs serve communities with limited access to resources, including families receiving Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy benefits.* Programs serving subsidy recipients may experience income instability due to uncollected fees or unstable enrollment, threatening the financial stability of the business. Children from low-income families receive the most benefits from high-quality early childhood education, so it is critical that high-quality programs remain accessible to this population. Family child care programs in Milwaukee are most likely to serve subsidy recipients and report unstable enrollment.

*48% of families in Milwaukee use Wisconsin Shares to pay for child care.

What we do.

Satellite offers stabilization funding to programs serving low-income, homeless, or special case families to avoid incurring financial losses that would undermine the stability of the program. Programs must meet the following criteria to receive stabilization funds:

- An average enrollment of **20% or more children from low-income families** receiving child care subsidy benefits or funding for special cases like Child Protective Services or Transition Education Program.
- Demonstrate financial jeopardy due to any one of the following:

Uncollected fees: fees not collected from families due to the family's stated inability to pay either for children who are currently enrolled or for children who have left with an outstanding balance due

Unstable enrollment or unanticipated enrollment loss: losses that occur as a result of children leaving abruptly, attending sporadically, or a slot was held utilizing a public funding source and that payment was delayed or never made



How you can help.

The City of Madison supports Satellite to offer this benefit to family child care programs in Madison. Stabilization funds are needed for family child care programs in Milwaukee. It would take \$150,000 to bring this benefit to Milwaukee.

Ready to support Satellite Family Child Care System's mission to bring high-quality family child care to children, families, and communities in Milwaukee?

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