



September 2025

Satellite

FAMILY CHILD CARE SYSTEM

NEWSLETTER

Welcome Satellite Affiliate members!

Alexis Koonce – NEXT UP Learning Academy

Congrats on your first Accreditation!



Michelle Coker – Scribbles and Giggles Family Child Care

Congrats on your Reaccreditation!

Mery Mancera – Blue's Day Care



Kathleen Wolfe – Kathy's Kids Home Child Care

Satellite Gathering

Join us for a social gathering open to Satellite family child care professionals. Time to relax, play a game or two, or just chat with other Satellite educators. Coffee and pastries will be served!

Saturday, **October 25**

9:30 – 11:30am

L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library

400 Eau Claire Street, **Eau Claire**, WI 54701

[Sign up here!](#)



Here's what Satellite offers...

Check out Satellite's new booklet outlining our numerous supports! Learn what we offer, why it matters, and how to access it.

[Explore the booklet here.](#)



FAMILY CHILD CARE PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

SARAH'S LITTLES ADVENTURES IN PLAYSCHOOL

Program owner: Sarah Cohan

Accredited Satellite educator

"I don't know how you do it; I can barely handle taking my one child out in public," – remarks one parent from Sarah's Littles.

Adventures beyond our borders play a crucial role in our programming and can range from small to grand. Yes, taking a group of young children out can be challenging, but to me, it's rewarding work. The learning experiences, regardless of the adventure's scale, are foundational and cannot be replicated at home. Together, we develop patience, empathy, active listening, safety awareness, direction-following, emotional regulation, communication skills, and community knowledge. While our Adventures may not suit everyone, they are a distinctive aspect of what makes Sarah's Littles unique.

Below are the types of adventures we experience at Sarah's Littles Adventures in Playschool!



Small Adventures. These typically involve a leisurely walk around the neighborhood.

Medium Adventures. Our most common type, these excursions allow us to explore the community using our Adventure Wagon. Sometimes, we simply enjoy a ride around town, while other times we stop at places like Target, the Boardwalk, or the forest. Bike rides are always a popular choice! Eventually, the kids take the lead in planning our route to visit all their beloved spots.



Big Adventures. These typically require a vehicle and take us further afield to various nature centers, county parks, and state forests. Everyone enjoys a ride in Ms. Sarah's van.

Grand Adventures. Reserved for days when our group size is a bit smaller, these adventures are special in their own right.



DIVING INTO THE STANDARDS

Print-Rich Environments



The Basics

Print is written language, and it is found everywhere in society. From books to street signs, food labels, menus, posters, and mail, children are surrounded by print. Print awareness is a child's understanding of the particular organization of a written language. This includes concepts like reading text from left to right and top to bottom, recognizing that words are made up of letters, and identifying spaces between words. Pre-writing is the fundamental fine motor skills required to learn to write. Children must learn to hold and manipulate writing materials before learning to write, which includes strength and visual-motor coordination in children's hands, fingers, and shoulders.

Why focus on print and writing in early childhood? Children learn print awareness and develop pre-writing skills through interactions with adults in print-rich environments. Unlike verbal language acquisition, which develops naturally through spoken language exposure, print awareness and writing must be taught. When adults and children jointly focus on environmental print (Examples: signs, labels, and books), young children begin to recognize the value and identify features of written language. Children learn to associate visual symbols, or letters, with language when adults repeatedly recognize it through playful, naturally occurring interactions. Pre-writing begins early in life through experience – engaging with writing materials, small manipulatives, and sensory play to develop the necessary fine motor skills.

How do I create a print-rich environment? Adults support the development of print awareness and pre-writing through offering, scaffolding, and modeling engagement with print and writing (Gerde, Bingham, & Wasik, 2012). To do this:

- ❖ Offer children a variety of print and writing materials throughout the program's environment to be incorporated during play. Examples include:
 - Offer a notebook and crayons near the block and manipulatives areas.

Print-Rich Environments (Cont.)

- Provide board or cloth books for infants to explore.
- Create homemade books with toddlers and preschoolers.
- Offer dramatic play writing options like blank recipe cards and shopping lists.
- ❖ Scaffold children to use print and practice writing. Examples include:
 - Point to images while reading with infants.
 - Narrate and ask questions about images in books with toddlers.
 - Ask preschoolers creating mock letters to read their writing.
 - Remind children to sign their artwork.
- ❖ Model print engagement and writing to children every day. Examples include:
 - Point out letters on labels for preschoolers.
 - Write children's names.
 - Read books that children find interesting and engaging.
 - When given permission, write children's ideas about their art on their art.

I want to learn more!

- [Promoting Preschoolers' Emergent Writing](#)
- [Print Awareness: Guidelines for Instruction](#)
- [Writing Readiness \(Pre-Writing\) Skills](#)
- [Everyday Steps to Reading and Writing](#)
- [Where We Stand on Learning to Read and Write](#)

Books available through Satellite's lending library:

(for Satellite participating programs only)

- Learning to Read and Write: Developmentally Appropriate Practice for Young Children (Neuman, 2000)
- Already Ready: Nurturing Writers in Preschool and Kindergarten (Wood & Glover, 2008)
- Love to read: Essays in developing and enhancing early literacy skills of African American children (Bowman, 2002)

Upcoming Professional Development



Exploring Quality in Family Child Care: Defining Your Philosophy

How do children learn? What do children need to learn? What should children learn? Answers to these questions inform practices like outlining your daily routine, planning activities, determining guidance techniques, understanding the role of the educator, setting up the environment, choosing materials, and so forth. A written philosophy provides transparency and clear expectations for families, helping decide whether a family will be a good fit for a program. Come to this session to reflect on your own set of beliefs, goals, and values about child development and learn how to articulate it through a program philosophy statement.

September 9 • 1 – 2 PM • Zoom • English and Spanish • 1 hour of Registry credit

[Register here](#) by 9/7



Focus on Developmentally Appropriate Practice: Equitable and Joyful Learning with Infants and Toddlers Guided Book Study

**Only for programs participating in Satellite's accreditation system.*

This guided book study open to family child care professionals explores *Focus on Developmentally Appropriate Practice: Equitable and Joyful Learning with Infants and Toddlers* by Marie Masterson (2024). Over eight discussion-driven sessions, participants will explore how to use observation, documentation, and reflection to plan engaging curriculum for infants and toddlers in family child care settings. Co-facilitated by family child care professional Betty-Anne White, participants will learn strategies for supporting infants' and toddlers' emerging language, cognitive, and social-emotional skills through evidence-based practices.

Thursdays • 1 – 2 PM • October 23 – December 18

Zoom • English only • 16 hours of Registry credit

[Register here](#) by 9/23



Exploring Quality in Family Child Care

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

Dates	Topic	Registration
September 9	Defining Your Philosophy	Register by 9/7
October 7	Word Play	Register by 10/5
November 4	How Adults Support Children’s Emotions	Register by 11/2
December 2	Rich Sensory Experiences	Register by 11/30

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

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
October 23 – December 18	Focus on Developmentally Appropriate Practice: Equitable and Joyful Learning with Infants and Toddlers	Register by 9/23

Safety Saturday

September 27 • 8 – 5 pm • 2096 Red Arrow Trail, Fitchburg • English and Spanish

Only for programs participating in Satellite’s accreditation system.

Time	Session	Cost	Registration
8 – 2 pm	First Aid CPR AED	FREE	Register by 9/13
2 – 5 pm	Child Car Seat Training	FREE	Register by 9/13

Satellite Social Events and Support Groups

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



Satellite Gatherings

Time for family child care professionals to spend together.

Dates

October 25

November 5

Location

Eau Claire

Milwaukee area

RSVP

[RSVP here](#)

Coming soon



English

English, Spanish

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

September 10

December 10

October 8

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 letthedragonfly@gmail.com

Arcoíris

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

Evening • Third Friday of every month • Madison area

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

SATELLITE LOAN PROGRAM

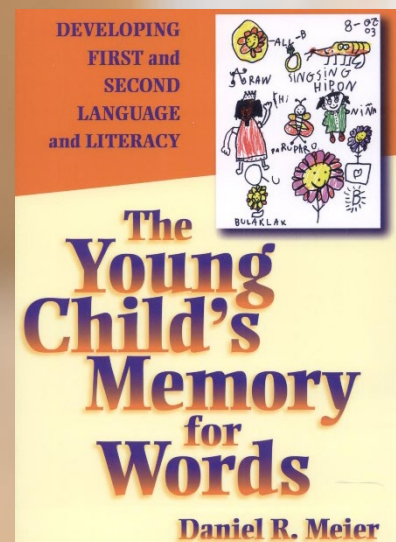
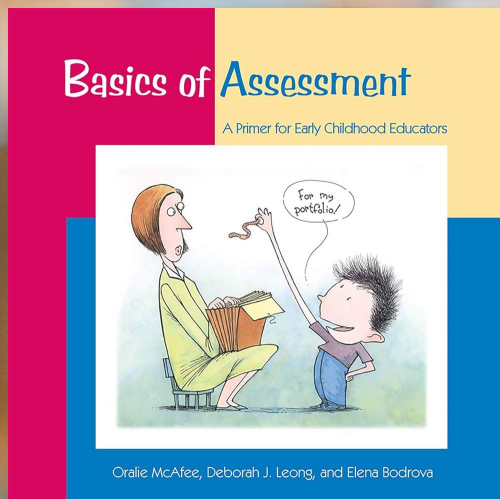
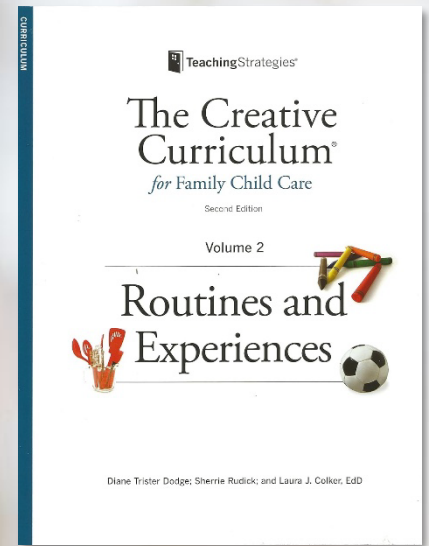
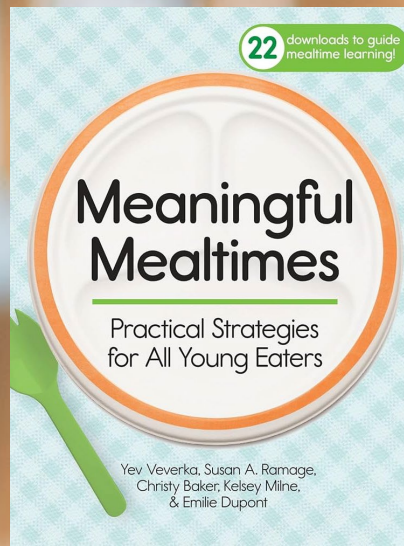
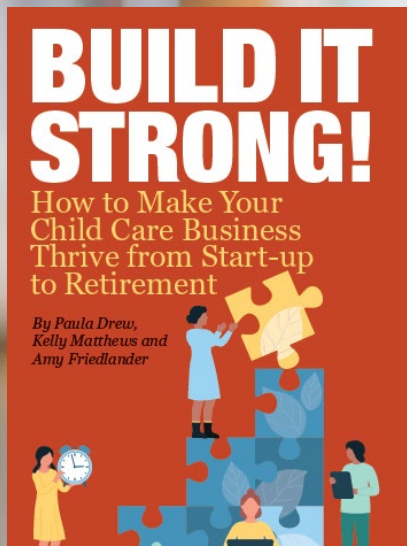
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR RESOURCE LIBRARY

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.



Wisconsin Agencies Supporting Your Family Child Care Program


PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

Wisconsin Family Child Care Association
National Association for Family Child Care
Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA)

QUALITY RECOGNITION SYSTEMS

Satellite Family Child Care System
YoungStar
National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)

SPECIALIZED RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS



Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation
Thriving Wisconsin
Career Development Counseling
Civitas Strategies
Wisconsin Early Childhood Shared Services Network (WEESN)
Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health (WI-AIMH)
Early Childhood Health Consultation
Wisconsin Latino Chamber of Commerce
Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

The Wisconsin Registry
YoungStar
Satellite Family Child Care System
Wisconsin Family Child Care Association (WFCCA)
Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA)
Wisconsin Early Childhood Shared Services Network (WEESN)
Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health (WI-AIMH)



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program
WECA Food Program
(There are also county-specific food programs)
T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Program
REWARD Stipend Program



ADVOCACY

Wisconsin Early Childhood Action Needed (W.E.C.A.N.)
Raising Wisconsin

REGULATION

Child Care Licensing-Department of
Children and Families


*Certification, a different type of regulation,
administering agencies vary by county*

Satellite
FAMILY CHILD CARE SYSTEM

YOUR WELLBEING MATTERS

Family child care can be a challenging *and* rewarding profession. You must prioritize your health and wellbeing in order to provide high-quality care in your program.

Below are resources to help you focus on YOU and your wellbeing. Click on the text to learn more.



Remember to
Take Care of
Yourself: Six
Ideas for Family
Child Care
Providers

Self-Care for
Educators

Taking Care of
Yourself

The 3 R's for
Teacher Self-
Care: Reflect.
Release.
Recharge.

Satellite Team



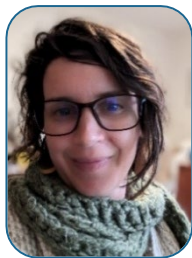
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related to accreditation and Satellite services.



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Mailing and drop-off address:

2096 Red Arrow Trail, Fitchburg, WI 53711

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:

