



# WCAA Updates

November 2010

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STARS is a program of the Wyoming Children's Action Alliance. Other programs include Career Development/CDA, P.E.P., and Pathways to Professional Development

## Clearinghouse is Changing January 1

The policy for credit generated through books, videos, DVD's and web-based trainings was reviewed by the STARS Board of Review at its September meeting.

The thumbs up was given to proposed changes which support the opportunity for self-directed study through the clearinghouse items.

The changes include the evaluation form and how books will earn credit. Beginning on January 1, **credit will no longer be given for single chapters of a book.** Providers will need to read the entire book to gain credit. In addition, clearinghouse users will need to provide a 75 word explanation of how they will use what was learned from the video, web-based training or book in their child care setting on the evaluation form.

As of January 1, books will then be on the same level as DVDs, videos and webinars in that the entire item must be viewed or read to gain credit. For electronic materials credit will be based on the running time of the presentation and rounded **down** to the next half an hour. One exception to this rule are videos with running times of more than 15 minutes but less than 30 minutes that are reviewed and approved for one-half hour of STARS credit.

Providers are reminded DFS Rules limit the use of the clearinghouse for no more than 50% of their required training each biennium when live interactive training is offered within 50 miles of their location. Providers are also reminded that with a policy change in March 2010 **credit will be provided only once** for viewing or reading clearinghouse material. Items can be checked out more than once but credit will be provided only once.



## Pathways to Professional Development Launched.

Entry level providers can get a \$400 completion bonus for participating and completing this class. Check out the requirements at [www.wykids.org](http://www.wykids.org) by clicking on "Pathways". An on-line application form is available by signing with your STARS ID number and password. Call 1.800.400.3999 and ask for Rose Kor or Sheila Ricley if you have questions.



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## Best Buy on the Block

Sometimes there is a fee for registering and attending classes for STARS credit. This is true of the WY Quality Counts Continuing Education Series. The classes currently offered are: Leadership and Management; Cradling Literacy by Zero to Three and Business Development for Family Child Care Homes/Business Basics. These classes were developed and are delivered by Align specifically for Wyoming child care providers through a contract with the Department of Workforce Services. There just isn't a better buy for the \$10 registration fee. According to Align, "we estimate a class with this content and certified and trained instructors costs between \$350 to \$500 per class." All of the classes are listed on the training calendar at [www.wykids.org](http://www.wykids.org). There is information and videos about the classes at [www.wyqualitycounts.org/ProviderCorner/training.html](http://www.wyqualitycounts.org/ProviderCorner/training.html).



## Organization for Home Child Care Providers Founded

A new organization just for home child care providers was launched 2010. It is called P.E. P. Providers Empowering Providers and more information is available on their website at [www.providersempoweringproviders.com](http://www.providersempoweringproviders.com). This effort is funded by the Department of Family Services through its STARS contract with the Wyoming Children's Action Alliance. Training for the state coordinator and the regional volunteer coordinators is supported in part with funding from the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services. This collaborative effort is focused on a proactive approach to raising the level of quality in child care throughout Wyoming. P.E.P. consists of three major elements: training, support and networking. Each of these elements are intricately woven to help child care providers combat isolation, burnout and operate successful, quality child care programs.

Sue Erpelding of Cheyenne is the state coordinator and works part time for the project while continuing to operate her home business. The project is supported and supervised by staff from the Wyoming Children's Action Alliance.

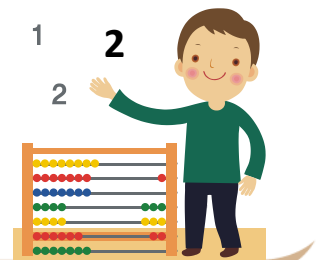


## Policies Basic to Risk Management

All Wyoming child care providers are required by licensing regulations to develop policies for their child care businesses. Policies though are much more than regulatory requirements, they are also a basic tool in managing business risk. If you or an employee is accused of wrong doing, your policies can be useful in refuting the allegation. To be useful, policies need to be reviewed and updated periodically and your employees need to be trained on the policies. The OKAY manual provided by the WY Department of Family Services offers some guidelines on policies, <http://dfswapps.state.wy.us/DFSDivEC/General/Resources.asp> and other resources are offered by commercial sources such as Redleaf Press or government sites such as <http://www.childcare.gov/>.

## The Magic Number is 2!

Here at STARS we are striving for consistency. Remember a biennium is two years. Classes, including staff orientation, need to renew every two years. Instructors need to renew/update every two years. Rule of thumb: once every two years.





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## ***Safe Sleep Wyoming*** ***Presents: SIDS Prevention*** ***(Sudden Infant Death Syndrome)***

***SIDS is the leading cause of death for infants ages 1 month to 1 year.***

1. ***Always*** place infants on their backs to sleep. ***Never*** put babies to sleep on their tummy unless there is a medical waiver.
2. Place infants on a firm mattress with no loose bedding/bumpers/plush toys/etc. ***Nothing*** in the bed except baby.
3. Eliminate infants exposure to smoke.
4. Utilize a fan in the sleeping area to circulate air when possible.
5. Do not overheat infant (68-70 degrees is optimal). It is recommended to use a Sleep Sack for additional warmth to prevent loose bedding in the sleep area.
6. Offer a pacifier to sleep.
7. Keep baby close to your sleeping area, but separate from your sleeping surface.

*Safe Sleep Suggestions from the Back to Sleep Campaign (supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics)*

**We all have a responsibility to keep babies safe. Safe sleep practices are easy to implement and are proven to save lives. SIDS has decreased over 50% since the Back to Sleep Campaign was initiated in 1994. Please take a few moments to become familiar with safe sleep practices and implement them in your facility.**

**Safe sleep practices are part of Wyoming Child Care Regulations. (See Chapter 6-Family Child Care Homes, section 15-Infant Care, subsections iv and v.**

**(iv.)** Infants shall be placed on their backs for sleeping, unless a licensed health provider signs a waiver. Once placed on the back to sleep, an older infant may be allowed to assume any position that seems comfortable. If the baby can repeatedly turn from back to side or tummy, then it is allowed for him/her to sleep in that position.

**(v.)** Nothing will be placed over the head or face of the infant laid down to sleep.

Please visit [www.wycrp.org](http://www.wycrp.org) for further information about the Safe Sleep Wyoming Campaign.  
Additional Resources: [www.nichd.nih.gov](http://www.nichd.nih.gov), [www.healthychildcare.org](http://www.healthychildcare.org), [www.firstcandle.org](http://www.firstcandle.org).