



WCAA Updates

April 2011

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STARS is a program of
the Wyoming Children's
Action Alliance. Other
programs include Kids
Count .

Save the date!

Fill Your Bucket at Stand and Celebrate

Stand and Celebrate will be Thursday, August 4, through Saturday, August 6 in Casper with a "Filling Your Bucket" theme.

The conference was extended to three days last year to provide more opportunities for access to quality, enriching learning experiences to support licensing requirements as well as networking with other early childhood professionals across the state. Mark your calendars! Watch your email and mailbox for the registration announcement. Registration information will also be posted at www.wykids.org as well as our Facebook page.

Clearinghouse sees changes

Beginning in January 2011 STARS staff began reviewing books, videos and DVDs currently approved in the clearinghouse. The purpose of this review is to assure the most current information is available through the clearinghouse.

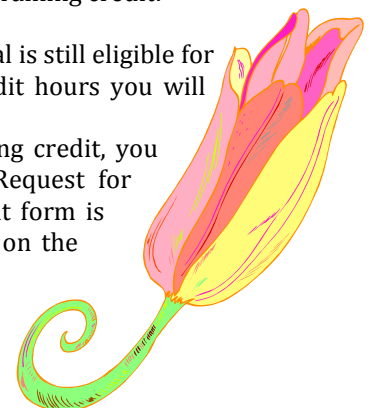
Materials copyrighted 10 years or older have been removed from circulation. This decision followed discussion with professors at the University of Wyoming and at the community colleges who teach in the early childhood department. The exception to this rule would be books or materials that deal with early childhood development theory (i.e. Piaget, Vygotsky, Montessori, and Gesell).

STARS is also re-evaluating the credit awarded for the books based on the reading level of the book and the total number of pages in this book.

Many providers and facilities maintain a library of materials for their personal use and to obtain STARS training credit rather than checking materials out of the STARS clearinghouse. Due to the changes, WCAA recommends that prior to using materials in your library or buying new materials you may want to use for training credit:

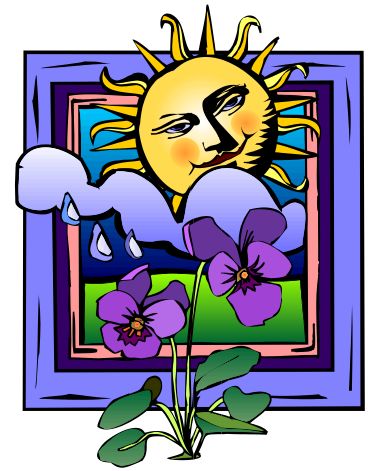
Call STARS (1-800-400-3999) to confirm that your material is still eligible for credit and check on the total number of STARS credit hours you will receive for viewing or reading materials.

If the material is not already approved for STARS training credit, you may request approval by filling out an Approval Request for Clearinghouse Materials from External Sources. That form is available by clicking on "Forms" in the left side box on the main web page at www.wykids.org.





3116 Old Faithful Rd., Ste. 100
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001



More Classes Planned in the Pathways for Professional Development Series

Right now about 95 Wyoming child care providers are completing the Pathways Certificate I course taught around the state by 20 instructors. Those who successfully complete the course will gain 40 hours of STARS credit, a \$400 bonus and one-third of a 120 hour credential program. The Department of Family Services and Department of Workforce Services, WY Quality Counts Program, are collaborating to develop the Pathways Certificate II course and move forward to the third phase, Credential I.

An instructor institute is being planned for late June in Casper. The Pathways I instructor class as well as the Pathways II instructor class will be offered at that time. Instructors are sought for both classes. There is a high need for instructors who live in the southwestern and western counties of Wyoming.

Classes for Pathways Certificate II and another round of Pathways Certificate I is planned for September 2011. These classes will be open to child care providers who do not have CDA certificates or college degrees of any type. The classes feature a hands-on approach to adult learning and are targeted to child care providers who do not have other formal training in early care.

The Pathways for Professional Development program is managed by the Wyoming Children's Action Alliance. If you have questions about the program, call Rose Kor or Sheila Ricley at 1-800-400-3999.

STARS Board of Review

The STARS Board of Review is an advisory body that helps the STARS program and the Department of Family Services, Early Childhood Division make wise decisions about how training is approved and tracked for Wyoming's child care providers. There are currently openings on the Board of Review. If you can participate in conference call meetings each quarter and meet once in person each year, consider serving on the board. Go to www.wykids.org and in the left box, click on STARS Board of Review for details and an application form.

Make Your College Course Work for You!

If you take college courses which are related to early care and education, you can use those courses for required training hours for licensing as well as for career development in STARS.

Submit a transcript or a copy of a transcript to gain credit. Your transcript must contain: the name of the college, your name, the code and number of the class (EDEC 1020), the name of the course (Intro to Early Childhood), the number of credits for the course and the grade you received and the semester in which you took the course.

Please understand that if you send a copy of the original transcript or a copy of the screen shoot these copies must be clear and readable. Staff at STARS will not assume what your record says.



The Magic Number is 2!

Here at STARS we are striving for consistency. Remember a biennium is two years. All instructors need to resubmit their class approval application every two years. This applies to staff orientation classes also. Instructors also need to update their information every two years. Rule of thumb: once every two years.

