



WCAA Updates

April 2013

What is “clearinghouse credit?”

Clearinghouse credit within STARS is credit for viewing videos, reading books, or completing on-line self-directed classes in which you are the only person participating in the class at the time you take it.

Child Care Licensing rules cap the number of clearinghouse hours you can earn per biennium at 15. At least half of your biennium training must be completed in classes that include an instructor and other participants. This approach is based on knowledge about how and why adults learn.

The “clearinghouse credit” option also provides a way to meet training requirements if a knowledge area gets overlooked in your annual training plan or for those instances where a planned class did not happen.

Like all training, clearinghouse opportunities can be used just one time for licensing credit. They may, however, be used anytime for review, additional learning or for refreshing your knowledge on a topic.

Providers may search the STARS Clearinghouse at www.wykids.org by clicking on the word, Clearinghouse. They may also search for “Approved Internet Based Self-Study Trainings “ in the Training Calendar search function at the website for on-online opportunities.

There are also a number of fee-for-service training providers who have materials approved through STARS. They include Child Care Education Institute, The Care Courses School, Inc., Child Care Lounge and others. Providers can check the organization’s website for availability and charges and should check with STARS to see if a class they are interested in has been approved for credit.



2013 DFS Regional Workshops Planning Starts

Plans are in process to provide regional workshops throughout the state again this year. Although dates and places are not confirmed workshops are tentatively planned at community colleges in Cheyenne, Powell, Rock Springs, Sheridan, and Riverton on Saturdays in August, September and possibly October. A call for instructors will be sent later this month to STARS instructors.

Stay tuned for more details on the Wyoming Children’s Action Alliance website and the May newsletter.

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STARS is a program of the Wyoming Children’s Action Alliance. Other programs include Kids Count, Providers Empowering Providers and Pathways for Professional Development



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Teaching Children and Adults: One Size Does Not Fit All

There are many differences between how children and adults learn. Understanding these differences will increase your effectiveness as an instructor. Keep this in mind when preparing classes for adult learners:

- Children rely on others to decide what is important to be learned but adults decide for themselves what is important.
- Children accept information at face value but adults need to validate information based on their own beliefs and experience.
- Children expect learning to be useful in the future but adults expect to be able to apply what they learn immediately.
- Children have little or no experience to draw from but adults have a lifetime of experiences to share.
- Children have limited ability to serve as a resource to the teacher but adults have a significant ability to serve as a resource to the instructor and others in the class. (Mihall and Belletti, 1999).

If you are interested in developing your skills as an instructor for other professionals in early care, Child Care Education Institute has a short on-line course you can take on basic skills for adult instruction. The course is Adult Learning: Theories and Strategies for Trainers and Directors PROF101 and it will generate one hour of STARS credit in Professionalism. The website is <http://www.cceionline.edu/>. There is small fee for this course.

Council for Professional Recognition Changes CDA process

The Council for Professional Recognition will change the process for gaining a Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate effective June 1, 2013. Changes include:

- New competency standards books which include the information on the CDA competencies and all application materials for \$25.
- A new review process which includes an on-line test at a testing center and an on-site review by a Professional Development Specialist. A new application fee of \$425 effective September 1, 2013. The Council is currently taking applications for the new Professional Development Specialist reviewers. The new requirements for these reviewers are at Council website, www.cdacouncil.org.
- Once a CDA candidate begins the approval process they will have six months to complete the process.
- As of June 1, 2013, all CDA certificates will be awarded for three years including renewal certificates. The five-year renewal period will be phased out as existing renewal certificates expire.
- CDA renewals will also increase in price beginning June 1, 2013. Renewal on-line will cost \$75 and a paper-based renewal will cost \$100.
- Beginning June 1, 2013, second setting CDA will require a complete second application process and fee.

Knowledge Area Tip of the Month— Active Learning Environment

Rationale: Early care and education for children involves planning and implementing learning experiences that promote children's growth in all developmental domains. Children explore their environment and engage in learning as they interact with others and with the materials around them.