



# WCAA Updates

May 2013



## STARS Staff

Rose Kor  
STARS—Career  
Development Director  
[rkor@wykids.org](mailto:rkor@wykids.org)

Sarah Horen  
Instructional  
Coordinator  
[shoren@wykids.org](mailto:shoren@wykids.org)

Jessica Taylor  
STARS Assistant  
[jtaylor@wykids.org](mailto:jtaylor@wykids.org)

Rose Martin  
STARS Data Input  
Coordinator  
[rmartin@wykids.org](mailto:rmartin@wykids.org)

Jeff Ross  
Database Administrator  
[jross@wykids.org](mailto:jross@wykids.org)

Deanna Frey  
Executive Director  
[dfrey@wykids.org](mailto:dfrey@wykids.org)

Lori Tiegs  
Administrative Assistant  
[ltiegs@wykids.org](mailto:ltiegs@wykids.org)



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

## Infant Toddler Credit Redefined

A recent decision by the Department of Family Services, Early Childhood Division has re-defined training for infant credit as any training which specifically addresses children from birth to 36 months. Previously infant training was solely focused on children from birth to 12 months of age. This reverses previous agency guidance on the topic of training for infants and toddlers.

As a result, in the future when classes are submitted for STARS approval, the age focus of classes which will trigger infant credit will be from birth to 36 months but solely on this age range. Anyone with questions about a potential class should call STARS at 1-800-400-3999.

## Looking for a college class that fits your schedule?

There is a handy tool available to child care providers and others looking to take a college course. By going to [www.wyclass.wy.edu](http://www.wyclass.wy.edu), you can find a complete listing of all distance and extension classes offered through the university and Wyoming community colleges. If you find a class you are interested in contact the registration office at the college offering the class for details on how to register and join the class. There are compressed video, internet and telecourses available. College degree work focused on early care and education can be supported through the WY Quality Counts scholarship program. More information on scholarships for planned degree work is available at [www.wyqualitycounts.org](http://www.wyqualitycounts.org).

Child care providers who are not on campus and are interested completing work on a bachelor's degree can earn the professional child development option through the UW Outreach School. The distance delivery program allows child care providers across the state who have associate degrees in early childhood or a closely related field to complete a bachelors degree. Interested students can contact Diane Barden at [dolson2@uwyo.edu](mailto:dolson2@uwyo.edu). She is located in the Family and Consumer Sciences division of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

**Questions about STARS? Call us at 1-800-400-3999 and ask those questions!**



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

## Evaluations and certificates due in 30 days

All participants in STARS approved classes need to send their class evaluation forms or on-line completion certificates to STARS within 30 days of completing their classes in order to gain credit for training.

When licensed providers complete on-line self-directed training such as the SIDS classes they must print a copy of the certificate and fax or mail it to STARS within 30 days in order to gain credit for the class. The one exception to this rule are the four classes sponsored by DFS. The four DFS training courses are sent to STARS electronically by DFS and automatically entered into provider records.

Providers should also send STARS copies of their CPR and First Aid cards or certificates as soon as they receive them but because the national training organizations are sometimes slow in providing the copies STARS will accept and provide credit for CPR and First Aid past the 30 day deadline. Each one of the courses will generate one hour in health, nutrition and safety.

Classes which focus on early care and education or the operation of a child care business can be entered into a provider's STARS record at any time for career development purposes with a college transcript. Eligible courses with a C or better grade are credited on the semester end date. They will count for licensing credit if they are completed in the licensing biennium and will count for career ladder purposes if taken prior to the current biennium.

---

## Emergency Planning Class Resources

Providers can find help with developing emergency response classes for their facilities from a variety of sources. These include your local emergency management agencies, fire and police departments and your local school district. Help is also available from the Early Childhood Division at the Department of Family Services.

Kimball Croft, Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in Washakie County, recently also suggested planning for how to communicate with parents about your facility's emergency plan.

In sharing a plan with parents, facilities may want to consider the following things:

- Is there an alternate pick-up location in the event of an evacuation?
- In the event of an emergency, how will you contact parents?
- If the neighboring schools go into lockdown, does the child care also go into lockdown?
- Do you ask parents to bring any specialized food or supplies their child may need if conditions prohibited a parent from picking their child up (i.e. blizzard)?

Other helpful tips including planning to stay aware of pending dangerous weather conditions by having a NOAA radio or a specific plan to keep tabs on the weather.

### Knowledge Area Tip of the Month— Child Growth and Development

**Rationale: Knowledge of how children grow and learn enables caregivers to select learning experiences that combine all domains of children's development.**