



October 2026

Satellite

FAMILY CHILD CARE SYSTEM

NEWSLETTER

Welcome Satellite Affiliate members!

Jessica Zavala – Jessica's Little Learners

Congrats on your Reaccreditation!

Courtney Beth Zielinski – Tadpoles to Frogs

Congrats on your first Accreditation!

Antonieta Patricia López
Mis Primeros Pasos Al Exito



Satellite

Gathering

 Eau Claire





Office of Child Care and Family Resources

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

A message to YOU from our partner organization, the Office of Child Care and Family Resources (OCCFR). Partnerships with supporters help us deliver effective and supportive comprehensive services to family child care educators.

Dear Educators,

As we begin a new academic year, I want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate you—our extraordinary educators across UW–Madison’s Campus Centers, Network Centers, and Satellite Family Child Care programs. You are truly at the heart of our child care and early childhood education community.

Every day, you create spaces where children feel safe, seen, encouraged, and inspired to discover who they are and who they can become. The relationships you build, the curiosity you nurture, and the early childhood education you provide extend far beyond the programs. Your work leaves a lasting impact, helping children develop confidence, resilience, a strong sense of belonging, and a lifelong love of learning.

What you do matters deeply—not only to the children in your care, but also to the families who depend on you and to the strength of our entire UW–Madison community. Your creativity, patience, professionalism, and commitment make it possible for families to learn, work, teach, research, and thrive knowing their children are surrounded by people who care deeply about them.

As this new year begins, I hope you carry with you a strong sense of pride in the difference you make every day. May the year ahead bring joyful discoveries, meaningful connections, shared successes, and many moments that remind you why this work is so important.

Thank you for all that you bring to our children, families, and community. I am grateful to begin another year alongside you, and I look forward to all that we will continue to build together.

With deepest appreciation,

Cigdem Unal

Director, Office of Campus Child Care and Family Resources (OCCFR)

Did you know?

BETWEEN JULY AND SEPTEMBER, SATELLITE’S PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES SUPPORTED

221

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS.

Safety Saturday

We offered a day full of FREE health and safety training available to all early childhood educators participating in Satellite's accreditation system.



Join us for a **Satellite** Gathering!

*Time to chat over a simple dinner and participate in an optional activity!
Come and enjoy the company of fellow Satellite family child care educators.*

Wednesday, November 4 at 6 PM

Milwaukee

[Click here to RSVP!](#)

FAMILY CHILD CARE PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Amy & Kids Co. Nature Playschool

Program owner: Amy Nogar

Accredited Satellite educator



Amy & Kids Co. is a play-and-nature-based family child care program in Appleton, WI, that has been operating since 1999. Over the years, I've learned just how capable young children really are, and learning to trust them has changed the way I run my program.

Trusting children means giving them space to make choices, follow their interests, take appropriate risks, make mistakes, and work things out. Getting to know each child is an important part of that. One of the things I value most about family child care is having the time to really get to know children and their families. I learn about their interests, strengths, personalities, and the ways they approach the world.



I don't always get it right, but I try to pause before stepping in and ask myself whether a child really needs my help or whether they just need more time. That has changed a lot about how I run my program.



An Educator's Role in Play

Relevant Satellite Accreditation Standards

III. The Daily Program for Children

C. The provider uses a variety of techniques to address, extend, and support children's development and self-guided play.

6. The provider occasionally joins in children's play. In doing so, she is respectful of children's play and participates without taking over.



Tadpoles to Frogs



Miss Cherrie's Fruitful Learning Center



Peluchitos Daycare

The Basics

Educators set up the program's environment to promote meaningful play based on the individual preferences, developmental ability, and social context of children in care. An educator's role in play depends on their educational philosophy, physical and emotional capacity, and children's needs. The educator's level of participation also determines the type of play. For instance, the following are examples of child-directed play:

- **Free play** is uninterrupted time and space for children to move freely, make choices, follow interests, learn new skills, and take risks within the program's environment. It is initiated and directed by children with educators remaining supportive and flexible. For example, children use natural loose parts in the outdoor area to create a home for a frog, and the educator is ready to support as needed.
- **Guided play** is uninterrupted time and space for children to playfully pursue a specific learning goal initiated by the educator. It is directed by children with educators expanding on play through purposeful interactions and intentionally prepared materials and environments (Zosh et al., 2018). For example, an educator adds cookbooks to the dramatic play area to promote children's print awareness during play.

By comparison, the following is an example of adult-directed play:

- **Co-opted play** occurs when a child initiates play but an educator joins and directs the experience. The intrusion results in a loss of children's autonomy and decision-making and restricts opportunities for

An Educator's Role in Play (Cont.)

active learning (Weisberg et al., 2015). For example, a child is engaged in dramatic play with animal puzzle pieces, and an educator prompts the child to find the correct spot in puzzle board.

[Why consider your role?](#) Type of play and level of adult engagement impacts children's development.

Guided play, when educators scaffold children's learning, results in better math, language, and literacy outcomes (Skene et al., 2022). Free play, in contrast, is essential for children's social-emotional and executive function skills (White, 2021). Co-opted play may be appropriate for children with specific, targeted learning goals, but educators are encouraged to use it sparingly. Educators are also encouraged to occasionally step back and observe while maintaining active supervision to ensure safety. This promotes independent free play and cooperative peer play which support unique developmental benefits like self-regulation and flexible thinking (Gray, 2011).

[How do I respectfully support children's play?](#) Educators scaffold children's play through a deep understanding of child development, the individual children in the program, and their unique cultural context. These considerations help the play environment remain both developmentally appropriate and responsive for children. Educators also vary widely in their direct engagement in play. Some discretely observe with little intervention or feedback while others enthusiastically join in play. Find a balance of when, where, and how to participate in play by observing the individual children and reflecting on what feels authentic as an educator.

[I want to learn more!](#)

- [The Power of Play – Part 5: Adult Roles in Child's Play](#) (Article)
- [Adults in Play with Children](#) (Book)
- [The Role of the Adult in Play](#) (Podcast)
- [Making Play Work for Education](#) (Article)
- [Supporting Children's Learning Through Play](#) (Article)

[Books available through Satellite's lending library:](#)

(for Satellite participating programs only)

- *Serious Fun: How Guided Play Extends Children's Learning* (NAEYC, 2019)
- *From Play to Practice: Connecting Teachers' Play to Children's Learning* (Nell, 2013)
- *Spotlight on Young Children: Exploring Play* (Bohart, 2015)

Satellite Professional Learning

Satellite’s free bilingual (English–Spanish) professional development values your existing knowledge, experiences, and perspectives. We offer a variety of learning experiences, including specialized training, recorded webinars, communities of practice, and book studies. Our professional learning focuses on home-based programming and mixed-age groups. Below are upcoming opportunities organized by event type. Click on “Register here” to sign up for each event. Registration closes two days before the event.

Exploring Quality in Family Child Care

This professional learning series supports a deeper understanding of the Satellite Accreditation Standards. In these one-hour monthly events at naptime, you will learn the evidence-based rationale behind a high-quality standard and discover ideas for practical implementation in your program.

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

February 9

Creating Inviting Play Areas

[Register here](#)

March 9

Scaffolding Children’s Emergent Writing

[Register here](#)

Evening Opportunities

Our evening learning opportunities offer an in depth exploration of a topic based on a reported interest or identified need. Each two-hour event combines essential information with meaningful practice and encourages active participation through reflection, discussion, and small group activities.

Wednesdays • 6 – 8 pm • Zoom • 2 hours of Registry credit • English and Spanish

January 28

Retirement: Planning Ahead for Your Arrival

[Register here](#)

Pyramid Model for Family Child Care

Pyramid Model is a framework that guides the understanding of social and emotional development in young children using evidence-based practices to help support the children in your program. This course includes 16 hours of independent learning and eight one-hour sessions of group reflection.

Tuesdays • 6:30 – 7:30 pm • Zoom • 24 hours of Registry credit • English only

January 19

February 2

February 16

March 2

March 16

March 30

April 13

April 27

[Register here](#)

Satellite Professional Learning

Obtaining Registry Credit* for Satellite's Virtual (Zoom) Professional Learning Sessions

To receive hours of Registry of credit for web-based professional development, you must:

- Be present for at least 75% of the session.
- Complete an evaluation at the end of the session and enter your Registry information.

You can view and print your proof of attendance through your [Wisconsin Registry](#) account. It may take several weeks before your attendance is entered into the Registry. Certificates of completion will not be mailed or emailed to participants.

*If you do not complete the steps above and wish to document a Satellite event that you attended or a Satellite event recording you watched, complete the DCF form [Continuing Education Record—Independent Reading/Video Viewing](#) for your own record.

Miss a professional development event?

View our recorded webinars on our website. Complete the DCF form [Continuing Education Record—Independent Reading/Video Viewing](#) for your own record.

What is

ACCREDITATION?

Family child care programs achieving accreditation are recognized as meeting the highest standards in home-based early care and education.

Satellite can help your program achieve accreditation.

Learn more [here](#).

Satellite Social Events

Events are open to educators participating in Upward Milwaukee, Upward Madison, & Satellite's accreditation system.



Educator Appreciation Dinner

A dinner in honor of family child care professionals • 6 pm

Dates	Location	RSVP	🌐
April 16	Eau Claire	RSVP here	English
May 5	Madison	RSVP here	English, Spanish
June 10	Milwaukee	RSVP here	English, Spanish
July 28	Appleton	RSVP here	English



Satellite Gatherings

Time for family child care professionals to spend together

Dates	Location	Time	RSVP	🌐
November 4	Milwaukee	6-8 pm	RSVP here	English, Spanish
January 13	Madison	6-8 pm	RSVP here	English, Spanish
February 24	Appleton	6-8 pm	RSVP here	English
September 18	Eau Claire	9:30-11:30 am	RSVP here	English

Satellite Support Groups



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

October 14

November 11

December 5

February 10

March 10

April 14

June 2

July 21

Sojourn

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

6:30 – 9 PM • Tuesdays • English • Madison area • RSVP to letthedragonsfly@gmail.com

October 13

November 10

December 8

January 12

February 9

March 9

April 13

May 11

Unity Circle

A support group for Satellite family child care professionals in the greater Milwaukee area.

6 – 8 PM • Thursdays • English • 1345 S 47th St West Milwaukee • [RSVP here to attend](#)

October 8

November 12

December 10

January 14

February 11

March 11

April 8

May 13

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

SATELLITE LOAN PROGRAM

Satellite members have full access to Satellite's equipment and curriculum units. Check the link below regularly to view our full lending options. When you sign up for equipment and units, your consultant will inform you of whether the item is available immediately or if you're on the waitlist.

Pick-up and drop-off of equipment and units occurs during consultant visits to your program. Additional exchanges of equipment and units may occur at the Satellite office. Communicate with your accreditation consultant to determine a day and time when Satellite staff are present.

Satellite Equipment & Units Loans

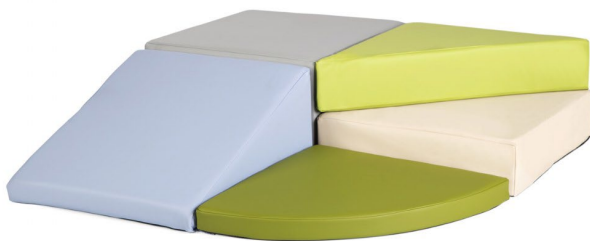
**Below are a few pieces
of equipment to support
infants and toddlers!**



Corner Shelf 16"



Toddler Bookshelf



Large Foam Climber



Soft Toddler Climber

HEALTH AND SAFETY



SAFE TO SLEEP® RESOURCES

Explore and share with families the many handouts and booklets from Safe to Sleep® for promoting safe infant sleep practices and reducing the risk of sleep related infant death.

[Click here to access the database.](#)

American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

SAFE SLEEP CAMPAIGN TOOLKIT

Explore and share with families the many videos, fact sheets, and posters from the American Academy of Pediatrics® for promoting safe infant sleep practices and reducing the risk of sudden unexpected infant death.

[Click here to access the toolkit.](#)



Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths in the United States

Explore the infographic from the Children's Safety Network for information on risk factors and recommendations for reducing SUID and promoting safe sleep.

[Click here to access the infographic.](#)

SATELLITE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Satellite deeply values input from those within the family child care community.

At each Advisory Committee meeting, the facilitator presents information about Satellite's support services and/or accreditation and then asks committee members related open-ended questions. Committee members are encouraged to use their unique backgrounds, personal and professional roles, and experiences as they share their perceptions and ideas.

Satellite's facilitator actively listens with the goal of utilizing committee members' expertise and experiences to strengthen the Satellite Family Child Care System.



Amy Nogar

Advisory Committee Member
Accredited Family Child Care Educator

Terri Lynn Alexander

Advisory Committee Member
Accredited Family Child Care Educator



Shelly Boelter

Advisory Committee Member
Accredited Family Child Care Educator

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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:

