

Satellite Family Child Care System

Why we care.

Family child care comprises nearly half of regulated child care in Wisconsin and is particularly essential in rural communities. It offers unique benefits to children and families, including small group sizes, a mixed-age model, a home-like environment, and continuity of care. Currently, only 6% of family child care programs in Wisconsin are rated as high-quality through the quality rating and improvement system. High-quality early care and education lays a foundation for long-term physical, mental, and societal health.

What we do.

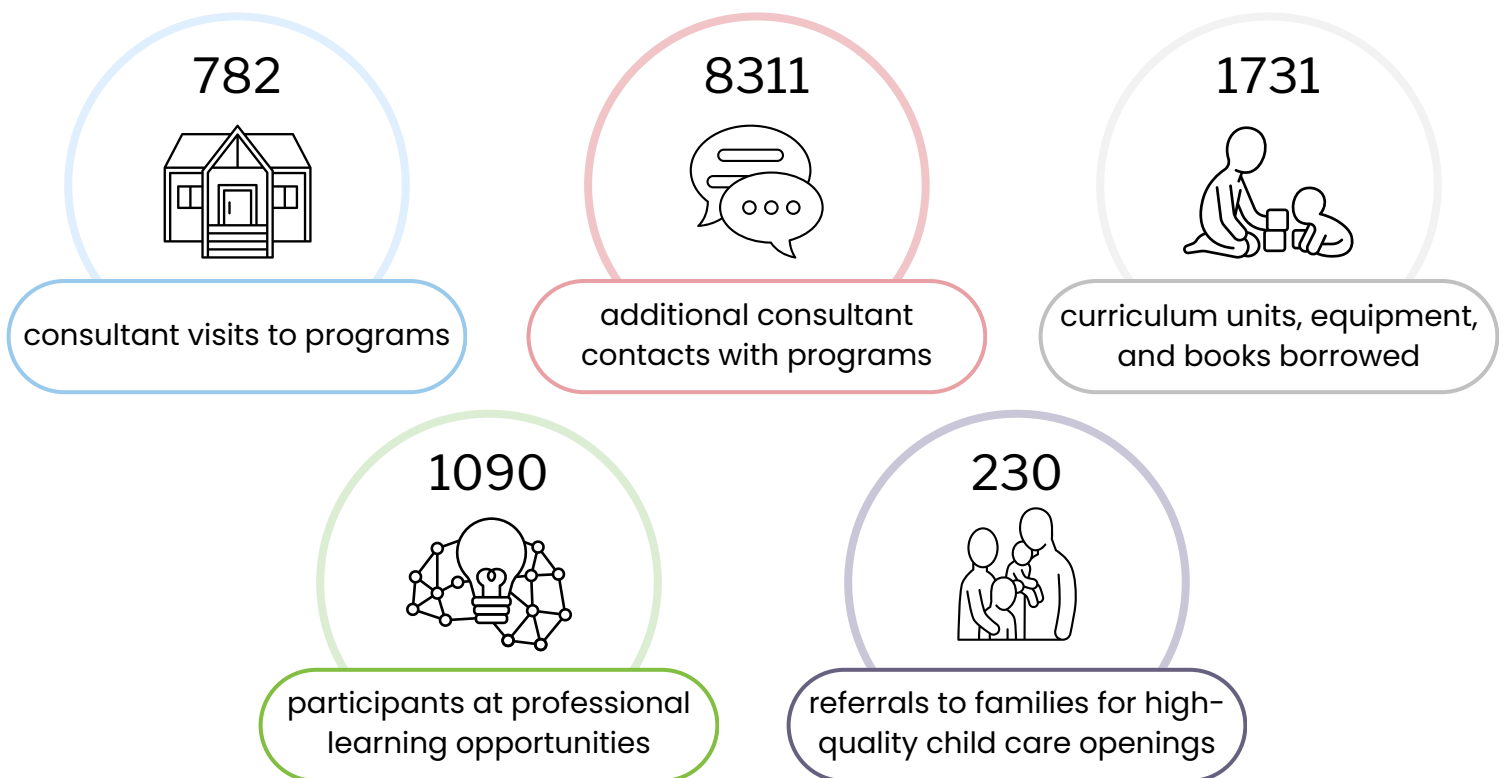
Satellite's mission is to promote high-quality care and education for children through a multi-faceted accreditation and support system for family child care programs. Programs engage with us on a journey of professional growth and quality improvement, aiming for accreditation. Family child care programs achieving accreditation are recognized as meeting the highest standards in home-based early care and education. The Satellite Accreditation Standards allow programs the flexibility to implement high quality, research-based practices through a lens honoring diversity and child-centered care.

How we impact.

Satellite offers family child care programs...

- an accreditation consultant
- equipment and curriculum unit loans
- program assessment resources
- developmental screening & assessment tools
- professional learning opportunities
- a family referral system
- regional social events
- support groups
- a mentoring program
- leadership opportunities

In 2025, Satellite accomplished...



Hear from those impacted.

The Satellite standards align with my core beliefs in how children learn and what they need in these early years. I am so excited to be able to be true to myself and have my program recognized as high-quality. As I continue to undo the years of external pressure, I will continue to provide a high-quality play-based, child-led program, while also educating parents on the benefits of play, showcasing how they are learning.

- Accredited Satellite family child care educator

Satellite accreditation has given me the opportunity to improve my program and become more knowledgeable on what a high-quality early childhood program consists of. The mentorship, support, training, and networking allow me to meet licensing requirements and gain much needed support and guidance in a career that can be very isolated.

- Accredited Satellite family child care educator

Through Satellite's guidance, training, and unwavering encouragement, we've grown stronger as a team and more intentional in our care. Your tools and resources empowered us to meet and exceed expectations, fostering a nurturing, high-quality learning environment for the children and families we serve. Thank you for believing in me, pushing me to grow, and standing alongside us every step of the way. I am proud to be part of a network that values excellence and is dedicated to the success of early childhood programs.

- Accredited Satellite family child care educator

Being accredited is a great achievement in my life, both personally and in my education. The most valuable thing for me was having my accreditation consultant's support. I didn't really know much about the Satellite Accreditation Standards. My consultant taught me a lot of things to achieve my goal. She was always there to support me because it was very difficult for me. With her support, I managed to become accredited.

- Accredited Satellite family child care educator

I am glad that my childcare provider receives both support and education for her career as my child benefits greatly from these supports. I feel safe sending my child to such a qualified provider.

- Family member of child attending an accredited program

How you can help.

It takes \$5,000 per year to support new programs and \$3,000 per year to support accredited programs.

Ready to support Satellite Family Child Care System's mission to bring high-quality family child care to children, families, and communities throughout Wisconsin?

Contact us!

(608) 381-2676

satellitefcc@reachdane.org



Professional Development

Why we care.

Professional development is an essential component of high-quality early childhood education. It combines instruction, discussion, and self-reflection to promote evidence-based practice among early childhood educators, producing optimal child outcomes. Effective professional development applies a variety of methods to transfer knowledge, skills, and educational perspectives among participants. Ongoing professional growth supports educators' understanding and use of current recommendations for teaching and nurturing our society's youngest learners.

What we do.

Satellite offers free bilingual (English–Spanish) professional development to family child care educators throughout the state of Wisconsin. We emphasize adult learners as rich sources of knowledge, experiences, and perspectives. Satellite offers a variety of methods to engage educators of all backgrounds and learning preferences, including specialized training, recorded webinars, communities of practice, and book studies. Satellite's professional development focuses on home-based programming with mixed-age groups. This enhances positive change within family child care programs and transferred benefits to children and families.

How we impact.

In 2025, Satellite's professional development included...

109



hours of professional
learning opportunities

36



subject matter expert
speakers

112



Wisconsin family child care
programs featured

How you can help.

Help support us to deliver free, bilingual professional development. It takes \$145,000 per year to offer professional development and \$2600 to sponsor one two-hour event.

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