

# Wright County Child Care Newsletter

April 2014

# Upcoming Training

## EFFECTIVE 7/1/14: EDUCARER.ORG is no longer an approved training source for SUID and AHT.

Due to the training changes made in the 2013 legislative session, DHS has developed a curriculum for SUID and AHT that is being implemented throughout the state. Educarer.org at this time is not able to offer the new required version of SUID and AHT.

Any training taken through educarer.org prior to 7/1/14 will be valid for one year. After 7/1/14, SUID and AHT training must be completed by an agency or trainer that is trained in the new DHS curriculum. (Child Care Aware or through a county agency) If you have a question regarding whether or not training is approved, please contact your licensor.

## C.A.R.S. (Children and Restraint Systems)

To make sure there is available space in each class, you must pre-register by calling Terri Burkhart at 763-682-7516 or 1-800-362-3667, ext. 7516, or e-mail

[Terri.Burkhart@co.wright.mn.us](mailto:Terri.Burkhart@co.wright.mn.us). Class fee is \$15 for Wright County Child Care/Foster Care providers, \$20 for providers outside of Wright County, and \$20 for Law Enforcement personnel. Pay fee prior to class by calling Terri Burkhart at 763-682-7516 or 1-800-362-3667, ext. 7516. **Class fees are non-refundable unless you reschedule. A minimum of ten participants need to be registered in order to hold class. Class will be canceled one week prior to class if the minimum is not met. No admittance after class has started.** Note: These trainings are approved on the MNCPD Registry.

Date	Time
5/14/2014	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
7/23/2014	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Both of these trainings are held in Room 127 at the Wright County Human Services Center, 1004 Commercial Drive, Buffalo

## SUID/AHT

### (Sudden Unexpected Infant Death and Abusive Head Trauma)

Please register by calling Terri Burkhart at 763-682-7516 or e-mail

[Terri.Burkhart@co.wright.mn.us](mailto:Terri.Burkhart@co.wright.mn.us). If you are not familiar with the training location, please ask for directions and plan extra travel time. Training does not have to be taken in the county in which you are licensed. Registration is required in order to make sure that enough materials and space are available. The total cost for both classes is \$10.00. Payment can be taken over the phone. **Class fees are non-refundable unless you reschedule. A minimum of 10 participants need to be registered in order to hold class. Class will be canceled one week prior to class if the minimum is not met. There is no admittance to class after 6:05 p.m. for evening classes.** Note: These trainings are approved on the MNCPD Registry.

Date	Time
5/21/2014	6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
6/25/2014	6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
7/23/2014	6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

All of these trainings are held in Room 127 at the Wright County Human Services Center, 1004 Commercial Drive, Buffalo

## New Training Requirements

Are you tired of hearing about the new training requirements yet?! It seems like training has been the main topic on the minds of providers, licensors and training agencies for the last few months. By now you have received post cards from both DHS and Wright County licensing explaining the new training requirements, and going into detail as far as dates that the training is required, and the number of hours required. If you have questions, please contact your licensor.

Wright County licensors (along with assistance of some very helpful child care providers) have created a couple of different training logs to help you keep track of your training hours. Neither log is required, but they may help you keep track of the training you need. Please note that training requirements have also increased for other caregivers you may use in your program.

[Training Log option 1](#)

[Training Log option 2](#)

As the new training requirements go into effect on 7/1/14, and must be completed by 7/1/15, know that Child Care Aware is working hard to train the trainers and get the training scheduled. Watch for more information from Child Care Aware and on [www.mnstreams.org](http://www.mnstreams.org) for training opportunities.

## Annual Training Requirements

After you have completed all of the new training requirements, remember that some of the trainings are now required annually. Wright County licensors have come to a consensus as to how we will monitor annual (defined as at least once every 12 months) training. Once you are current with the new training requirements (by 7/1/15, or sooner), you will then be required to make sure you are completing the required training annually, or every other year depending on the training. See below for examples:

TRAINING	DATE COMPLETED	ON TIME IF TAKEN BY:	LATE IF TAKEN ON OR AFTER: (CORRECTION ORDER WILL BE ISSUED)
SUID (annual)	5/1/15	5/31/16	6/1/16
AHT (annual)	5/15/15	5/31/16	6/1/16
Supervising for Safety (annual)	4/12/15	4/30/16	5/1/16
Child Growth & Development & Behavior Guidance (annual)	7/1/15	7/31/16	8/1/16
CPR (every 2 years)	2/2/14	2/29/16	3/1/16
First Aid (every 2 years)	1/13/14	1/31/16	2/1/16

**TO ENSURE ANNUAL TRAINING, TRAINING MUST BE COMPLETED IN THE SAME MONTH OR EARLIER**

## Child Care Attendance Records (Effective 5/1/14)

Licensors were notified on 4/3/14, that the statute we shared with in you in our [October 2013](#) newsletter also includes attendance records for providers that use a [Food Program](#).

We  
will  
pass  
on  
any  
new  
information  
as  
we  
receive  
it.

### **MN Statute 245A.14 subd 14 (b):**

*(b) A family child care provider licensed under this chapter and according to Minnesota Rules, chapter 9502, must maintain documentation of actual attendance for each child receiving care for which the license holder is reimbursed by a governmental program. The records must be accessible to the commissioner during the program's hours of operation, they must be completed on the actual day of attendance, and they must include:*

- (1) the first and last name of the child;*
- (2) the time of day that the child was dropped off; and*
- (3) the time of day that the child was picked up.*

Effective 5/1/14, licensors may ask to see your attendance records if you have children on the Child Care Assistance Program, or if you use a food program. There is not a specific form that is required, but your documentation must include the requirements listed above.

The child care assistance statute requires that "to the extent possible, the times that the child was dropped off to and picked up from the child care provider must be entered by the person dropping off or picking up the child." It is recommended that you have families on Child Care Assistance sign in and out children.

Please  
contact  
your  
licensor  
with  
any  
questions.

### **MN Statute 119B.125 subd 6:**

#### **Subd. 6. Record-keeping requirement.**

*All providers receiving child care assistance payments must keep daily attendance records for children receiving child care assistance and must make those records available immediately to the county upon request. The attendance records must be completed daily and include the date, the first and last name of each child in attendance, and the times when each child is dropped off and picked up. To the extent possible, the times that the child was dropped off to and picked up from the child care provider must be entered by the person dropping off or picking up the child. The daily attendance records must be retained for six years after the date of service. A county may deny authorization as a child care provider to any applicant or rescind authorization of any provider when the county knows or has reason to believe that the provider has not complied with the record-keeping requirement in this subdivision.*

## CHILD CARE DEATHS DROP SHARPLY IN MINNESOTA

Jeremy Olson, Star Tribune, February 20, 2014

Child-care deaths in Minnesota dropped dramatically last year — a trend that is being attributed to news coverage of unsafe sleep practices and other hazards in licensed day-care homes, along with intensified state oversight and tougher laws.

Three children died in child care in 2013, down from nine in 2012 and 11 in 2011, according to a review released Wednesday by the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

“It is heartbreaking when a child dies,” said Human Services Commissioner Lucinda Jesson. “Although these results show continuing progress, we want to do everything we can to make sure children are safe.”

A 2012 Star Tribune series found that child-care deaths had doubled over the previous decade, an increase largely attributable to infants placed in unsafe sleeping positions — such as face down or on fluffy blankets. Other hazards included overcrowding at licensed homes, which left some providers unable to supervise children adequately.

Since then, the state has increased training requirements and imposed tighter rules to enforce safe sleep practices. But many of these reforms are just getting underway; the state only recently hired two trainers who will make sure county inspectors are providing consistent oversight of safety requirements in home day cares.

The immediate drop in deaths, as a result, probably has more to do with startled child-care providers reacting to news coverage of the deaths and to memos issued by state regulators warning of tougher enforcement of existing standards, said Jackie Harrington, a Rochester child-care provider and a board member for the Minnesota Licensed Family Child Care Association.

“There was a lot of heightened awareness that trickled down to how [providers] enhanced their current safety practices,” said Harrington, who cares for seven children, including one infant. “That was an immediate effect.”

Dakota County began offering more training in safe sleep practices after law enforcement authorities investigated two infant deaths in 2011 and 2012.

Home day-care providers in those cases — Beverly Greenagel of Eagan and Rebecca Graupmann of Farmington — pleaded guilty to felony manslaughter charges and await sentencing in the next two months.

“We want to prevent these tragedies from happening,” said James Backstrom, Dakota County attorney. “If we’re talking about criminal prosecution, it’s too late.”

Almost all the deaths in child care over the past decade have occurred in licensed family homes, not group child-care centers. All three deaths last year occurred in homes, including one in Hastings in which the provider placed an infant to sleep on his stomach on a blanket and carpeted floor, according to state records.

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“Seventy-five percent of the infant deaths [over the past decade] were associated with an unsafe sleep arrangement,” said Jerry Kerber, inspector general for the Human Services department. “If we do nothing else but take that variation out of the equation — and we only have those truly unexplained deaths of infants left — it’s dramatically different.”

Under the state’s new rules, parents must obtain a doctor’s note if they want child-care providers to place infants in any sleep position other than the recommended one, on their backs. Research has linked that sleep position to a reduction in unexpected infant deaths.

The state now requires licensed family providers to complete 16 hours of training each year, including a review of safe sleep practices.

Minnesota also saw a decline in the number of child-care facilities shut down for sexual abuse of children, from 12 in 2012 to six last year. Kerber credited better supervision by providers of other adults and children in their homes.

While last year’s progress occurred before the new training requirements took full effect, Kerber said annual reminders on supervision and safe sleep rules will prevent providers from becoming lax.

In every death case, he said, providers knew the rules they were supposed to follow.

“But he or she didn’t recognize the importance of it until it was too late. That’s the main focus of the training — to make sure people understand how important it is to follow these safe sleep requirements.”

Harrington said the new regulations help, because they allow providers to be firm when parents present special requests that violate safe sleep rules. The updated regulations allow swaddling in certain circumstances, but prohibit loose blankets or other potential choking hazards in cribs.

On the other hand, Harrington said she fears the tougher oversight and news of criminal prosecutions are hurting the profession by discouraging new providers.

She conducts training at orientation sessions, and said attendance is down. Fewer providers are willing to take infants, she added, because they come with the most requirements and risks.

Nonetheless, she added, “The decrease in deaths is the ultimate goal, and that is happening, obviously.”

Watch for a new web design for Wright County!

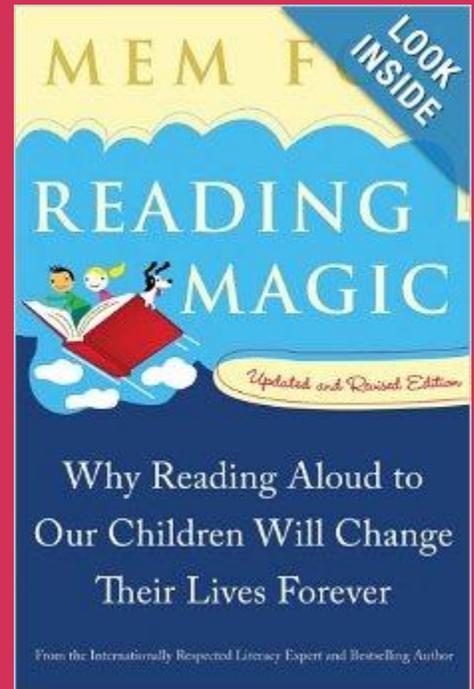
A web designing company has been working with Wright County to revamp the website and make it more user friendly. All of the information and forms currently on the Wright County website will be available on the new site.

The new website is scheduled to be available soon.

## Reading Magic, Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever

**Mem Fox**

Most parents and child care providers read to their children because it is an enjoyable experience for both the child and the caregiver, but did you know it is also laying the foundation for early reading skills? Mem Fox's book, [Reading Magic, Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever](#), discusses the benefits of reading to children from infancy. The author shares her own personal story of parenthood and how she read to her child as well as her research on early literacy and what she has learned as a professor and author. The book is very easy to read and it encourages the reader with simple ideas of how to incorporate reading into everyday life with kids.



[http://www.rif.org/assets/Documents/parents/reading\\_aloud.pdf](http://www.rif.org/assets/Documents/parents/reading_aloud.pdf)

### **New Terminology on the License**

In the past, if an area of the home was not licensed for child care, it was listed on the license as "conditional" under Restrictions/Special Codes. Conditional areas are now listed on the license as "restricted use". The definition remains the same. This is still an area of the home that has either not been cleared for use by licensing or an area of the home that you have chosen not to use. An area of the home listed as "restricted use" cannot be used by children in care (or your own children of child care age, during child care hours) unless it has been approved by licensing and the restriction removed.

# FYCC Bike Rodeo



**Date**

Saturday, May 3rd, 2014

**Time**

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Location**

St. Michael City Center

**Sponsors**

Wright County Area United Way &  
Family Youth Community Connections (FYCC)



## Join Us!

Wright County Area United Way and Family Youth Community Connections (FYCC) are hosting a bike rodeo on Saturday, May 3rd, 2014 from 10am - noon, at the St. Michael City Center. This event will be held rain or shine with activities for children including games, lunch, emergency vehicle tours, car seat inspections and free bike helmet fittings.

Questions contact FYCC and speak to  
Sandy 763-416-7912

For Car Seat Safety Check Reservations call  
763-682-7516



March 7, 2014

**Contact:** Katie Mintz  
Communications  
651-431-5605  
[kathryn.mintz@state.mn.us](mailto:kathryn.mintz@state.mn.us)

### **New incentive to increase access to quality child care begins this month** *St. Paul child care program helps to highlight \$19.4 million investment*

Child care providers now have a greater incentive to improve the quality of care for children with high needs, thanks to a \$19.4 million state investment proposed by Gov. Mark Dayton and approved by the Minnesota Legislature last session. With this change, child care providers who receive high ratings from [Parent Aware](#), the state's voluntary child care rating system, are eligible for higher [Child Care Assistance Program](#) reimbursement rates.

Parent Aware's star rating system helps parents find high quality child care and early education programs to prepare their children for kindergarten. Beginning March 3, providers with three- and four-star Parent Aware ratings began receiving rate increases of up to 15 percent and 20 percent, respectively, for children in the Child Care Assistance Program.

To highlight this new effort to increase access to quality early education for Minnesota children with high needs, Minnesota Human Services Commissioner Jesson visited today Y Early Learning Day Care in St. Paul's Thomas-Dale neighborhood.

"Children from families with low incomes are less likely to be fully prepared for kindergarten than their more advantaged peers," Jesson said. "With increased access to quality child care, more children will arrive for kindergarten ready to learn, and more parents will be able to focus on employment knowing that their children are in safe, enriching environments."

More than 1,300 early education programs are now rated by Parent Aware. Participation is currently available to accredited child care, Head Start and school-based pre-kindergarten programs statewide, as well as licensed family child care programs and child care centers in 45 counties and on eight reservations.

"Teaching is my passion," said Yeur Xiong, who operates Y Early Learning Day Care, a four-star rated Parent Aware program registered for the Child Care Assistance Program. "I believe early education gives children the tools they need to be successful, and I think all children should have an opportunity to succeed."

The department will expand Parent Aware to all providers statewide in 2015. Providers interested in joining Parent Aware can call 1-888-291-9811 or visit [ParentAwareRatings.org](http://ParentAwareRatings.org).

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*Editor's note: Photos from the visit to Y Early Learning Day Care are available by request.*