



# WCAA Updates

January 2012

## ***Happy 2012! Plan to take some stress out of your year!***

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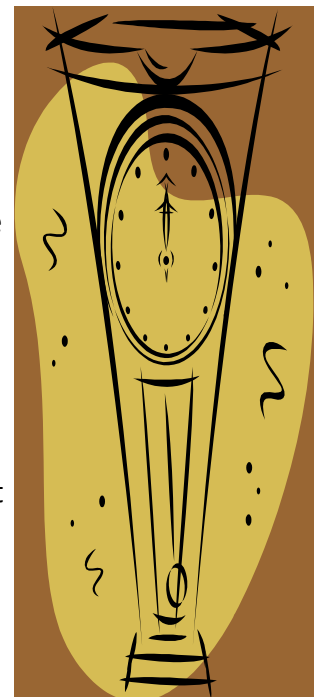
**STARS is a program of the Wyoming Children's Action Alliance. Other programs include Kids Count, Providers Empowering Providers and Pathways for Professional Development**

A little planning for the new year can make your training and management efforts in your child care operation go more smoothly. Take a few minutes to look at your STARS record and your biennium dates, then take a look at the training calendar at [www.wykids.org](http://www.wykids.org). Just click on "Training Calendar" on the first page of the website.

Under "Simple Tools for Providers" on the left you can find a personal training calendar form you can use to compare your hours in your biennium training record, as of today, with the licensing requirements. See where the gaps are and see if there are upcoming trainings in your area that you can plan to attend. Get a head start and avoid the deadline pressure at the end of your biennium.

While you are at the website, checking your training record, take a few minutes to make sure all your personal information is updated. Having correct phone numbers, emails and mailing addresses are important in helping accurately track your training. Believe it or not we have a lot of people with the same or similar names. There are 151 people named Smith, 51 have first names beginning with A. We also have 76 people with the last name Martinez. Not everyone's handwriting is perfect and sorting out your evaluation forms for credit can be a challenge. It is also helpful in keeping everyone straight if you are willing to provide some general demographic information about yourself such as your birth date and education background. We seldom have two people with same name AND the same birth date but we have instances of same first name and last name.

Remember if you have a question about your training record, the training calendar, or other services at STARS, give us a call at 1-800-400-3999.





## **Rule changes coming in 2012**

The Department of Family Services proposed rules are out for comment.

You can see the proposed rules at <http://dfswapps.state.wy.us>. Unless public comment indicates a need for changes the new rules could go into effect on April 1, 2012. For training purposes a couple of changes are proposed. First, the minimum amount of training will increase from half an hour to one hour and the areas of knowledge will be reduced from eight to seven. The current Uniqueness and Cultural Awareness category will be folded into Family Relationships and Child Growth and Development.

The STARS Board of Review is currently working on revising the areas of knowledge to fold uniqueness and cultural awareness elements into the other categories and to make the language of all the areas more understandable and useful for providers. Information on the areas of knowledge is available at the website, [www.wykids.org](http://www.wykids.org).

According to Michelle Weber, with the DFS Early Childhood Division, the agency is planning a transition period for the changes and additional details on how the changes will be handled will be available as the rules become effective.

## **STARS Clearinghouse is under construction!**

Actually a major remodeling effort is underway. In order to meet new one-hour training requirements and update the material available through the Clearinghouse all the materials are being reviewed. Older VHS videos are being removed or replaced with DVD versions, if updated material is available. All books are being reviewed to make sure they have current copyright dates. New versions will be acquired if they are available. New materials are being added as they are identified.

Last year at this time the process by which credit was awarded for clearinghouse materials was updated and simplified. Providers who borrow books must read the entire book and complete just one clearinghouse report form. Chapter by chapter evaluations are no longer part of the process. Credit is also now awarded based on the reading level of the book and its length. Short, easy printed information gets less credit than longer more involved information.

Remember you may check out information from the clearinghouse as often as you need it but you can gain training credit only once in your career for reading or viewing a specific item. Providers should also be aware that the PBS "A Place of Our Own" series viewed on television will no longer generate STARS credit. The Clearinghouse, however, does have several DVDs of selected programs that can be checked out for credit by any provider who has not already gained credit from the television series.

Because the items in the clearinghouse will change frequently, please call the STARS office to insure that items in your personal or facility library are still available for credit.

## **EWC Offers Certificate Program**

An Early Childhood Education Certificate program is now offered at Eastern Wyoming College in Torrington. Classes will begin on Tuesday, January 17, and registration for these classes is still open. To register call Sue Schmidt at 1-866-327-8996, extension 8207. For financial aid information call Molly Williams at 1-866-327-8996, extension 8224.

The program includes three classes

- EDEC-1200 Administration in Early Childhood Education
- EDEC-1300 & 1305 Curriculum Planning and Development for Young Children and Lab
- FCSC-2121 Child Development

Kate Steinbock, Instructor, Eastern Wyoming College, is in charge of the program and will provide additional information about the program. Her number is 307-532-8339 at the college.