



YoungStar Religious and Spiritual Materials Policy

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, creed, age, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families licensing rules require providers to inform parents of any religious components of child care programming. YoungStar builds on the foundation of regulation, and identifies the sharing of the program philosophy through two way communication as a quality component of programming.

For the purposes of YoungStar, as long as materials and practices used in the child care environment and curriculum (religious, spiritual or otherwise) are age-appropriate, they may be counted during the YoungStar rating process. If a rater believes a material or practice to be **age-inappropriate** and the item has a religious or spiritual theme, the item will be disregarded in a YoungStar rating process.

Age-appropriate means books, materials and practices are accessible to children in their primary language. The content is suitable to the ages of the children in care (i.e. simpler books and games are available for younger children and more complex items are available for older children). Books and materials that are *accessible to infants, toddlers or preschool age children* should include no violent or frightening content or pictures.