



2025
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

MISSION, VISION, VALUES

MISSION STATEMENT

Family Connections supports and educates families and early childhood professionals to promote healthy child development and strengthen communities.

VISION STATEMENT

Services are available and easily accessible by families and child care professionals, so every child is prepared to thrive.

All children, regardless of economic status, religion, sex, or special needs, receive high quality, affordable care.

All parents seeking assistance in child care are educated on quality in child care environments and the resources available to their families

All child care providers working in early learning, education, and care environments are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve by families and communities alike.

VALUES

Family

- Resilience
- Connections
- Knowledge
- Support
- Communication

Child Care

- Professional Development
- Technical Assistance
- Recruitment
- Resource and Referral

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/ TRAININGS

58

trainings offered
to providers

609.5

hours of continuing
education

450

child care providers
participated in the
trainings

PARTICIPANT NUMBERS

53 *Building a Great Team*

168 *CPR*

5 *Taking Care of Ourselves: Self-Care for Childcare Providers*

22 *Introduction to the Child Care Profession*

13 *Skills and Strategies for the Child Care Teacher*

6 *Fundamentals of Infant and Toddler Care*

2 *Fundamentals of Family Child Care*

4 *Understanding Licensing Rules*

28 *Strengthening Families Through Early Care and Education with Mandated Reporter - Online*

9 *First Aid*

10 *Keeping Kids Safe*

18 *Guiding Behaviors*

51 *Abusive Head Trauma with Mandated Reporter - In Person*

7 *Wisconsin Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care Provider Training*

11 *Wisconsin Pyramid Model - 8 Part Series*

43 *STEM Activities*

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

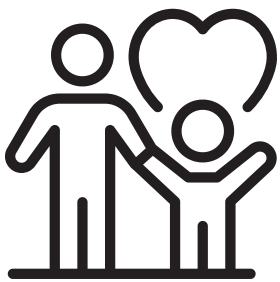
CONNECTIONS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Family Connections provides financial support to families in Sheboygan County who struggle to pay the cost of high quality child care. A portion of each family's child care fees are paid by Family Connections using grant funds.



15

Families enrolled in the
Connections Program



CHILD CARE ENHANCED REFERRALS

Family Connections supports families in finding child care by offering a free child care referral service. When a family contacts us, they are connected with a Referral Specialist who then helps them start their child care search.

43

Families served through
enhanced referrals

ARPA

RETENTION BONUSES

\$145,526.99

paid in retention
bonuses

645

child care teachers
received retention
bonuses

CHILD CARE START-UP AND EXPANSION

\$41,452.14

invested

100

child care slots created

1

licensed group child care
program opened

1

licensed family child care program
opened

1

child care program expanded

ARPA

REDUCED TRAININGS

Sheboygan County ARPA funds have allowed for Family Connections to offer trainings at a reduced price to child care providers within Sheboygan County.

\$6,375

reduced in training fees for child care providers



CPR: 65 free and 84 discounted

First Aid: 4 free

Strengthening Families: 20 free

Keeping Kids Safe: 8 free

Guiding Behaviors: 18 discounted

ON-SITE SUPPORT

Family Connections conducts on-site visits to support child care teachers who are dealing with children who are exhibiting challenging behaviors.

59 hours of on-site support has benefited...

8
programs

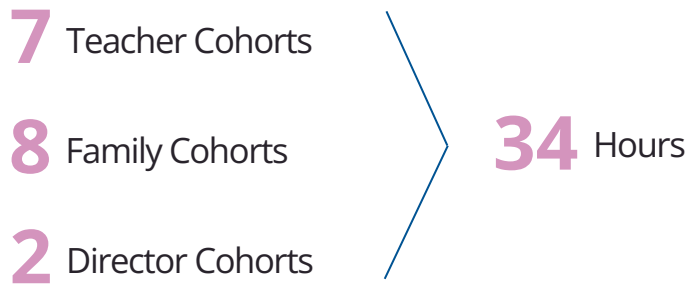
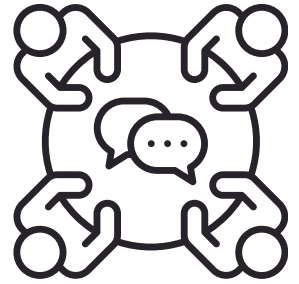
21
teachers

6
children

ARPA

COHORTS

Family Connections holds cohorts for providers to collaborate in an encouraging space. Child care providers come together to discuss real challenges, exchange ideas, and build solutions as a community. Provider cohorts are separated by type: group centers (teacher cohort), family child care (family cohort), and center directors (director cohort).

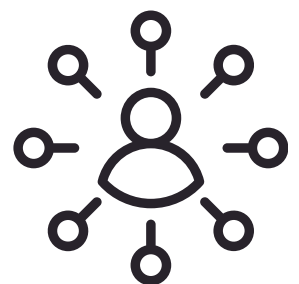


CHILDCARE CONVERSATIONS - EDUCATION SERIES



ROUND ROBIN

Family Connections holds round robins for child care teachers to come together and tour child care centers in Sheboygan County to collaborate and gather ideas.



WELCOME BABY

Through the Welcome Baby program, Family Connections distributed...

8,780

diapers

878

baby hats, burp cloths, books, and receiving blankets

1,170

families visited through the Welcome Baby program

878

hospital visits

262

parents qualified for Parents as Teachers

175

parents agreed to Parents as Teachers



United Way of Sheboygan County

PARENT CAFÉ

65

adults participated
in the Parent Café
workshops

67

children participated
in the Parent Café
workshops

DATES & TOPICS

January 14: Parenting is All Fun & Games

February 13: Bodies & Boundaries

Talking to Your Child About Body Awareness and Sex

February 20: Bodies & Boundaries

Body Safety & Empowerment

February 27: Bodies & Boundaries

Minimizing Opportunity for Sexual Abuse

April 17: Community Café

May 10: Dad's Café

Protective Factor: Resilience/Relationships

May 15: Community Café

Protective Factor: Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

June 4: Special Needs Café

Protective Factor: Knowledge/Resilience

STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

“Everybody at Family Connections here in Sheboygan have gone above and beyond when it comes to helping us with our family childcare and we couldn't be happier with them and hope to be able to work with them for many many years to come. ”

“Every time I go there, Erin, Michelle and all the ladies working there have always been very kind and helpful! I continue to refer parents and other centers to them. ”

“Workers are friendly and helpful ”

“Keep it up! This is a very useful group. It was a significant help when our first kid was born in helping navigate parenting. I would love to hear about this org growing in 10 years to double your reach around Sheboygan County. ”

“They are a wonderful agency that our community is lucky to have! ”

“Every employee there goes above and beyond what is asked of them. They are very knowledgeable and willing to work with anyone to get what they need. ”

STAFF & BOARD

FAMILY CONNECTIONS STAFF

Colleen Steinbruecker
Executive Director

Terri Schultz
Family Support Coordinator

Michelle Christus
Early Learning Support Specialist

Michele Hemb
Family Support Specialist

Deb Streblov
Welcome Baby Resource Specialist

Shanda Yang
Welcome Baby Resource Specialist

Mary Katarincic
Early Learning Support Specialist

Erin Williams
Recruitment Specialist

Gabriela Bucio
*Marketing & Outreach Specialist /
Administrative Assistant*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Board

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Executive Director - Sheboygan Falls YMCA

Vice President

Tami Prunik

*Special Needs/Mental Health Manager -
Sheboygan County Head Start*

Treasurer

Rebecah Wickert-Carini

*Wisconsin Bank and Trust Banking Center Loan
Manager*

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*Director of Special Education and Pupil Services
- Sheboygan Area School District*

Katie Randall

*Program Coordinator - Fond du Lac County
Birth to Three*

Luke Wacek

Brand Manager - Johnsonville

Kathryn McKillip

Principal - Early Learning Center

Robyn Wise

*Public Health Nurse - Fond du Lac County Health
Department*

DONORS

