



Member Spotlight

My name is Stacy Boysen and I've been a licensed family child care provider since 1998. My husband joined me as a licensed provider in 2008. Together, we operate a 4-star Parent Aware rated child care program on a small farm in rural Pine Island. We focus on child-led exploration, learning from our natural environment, and teaching children valuable life skills for lifelong success. We have two boys, Cole and Luke, who are in their twenties. In my spare time, I enjoy horseback riding, reading, and just being outside in the fresh air – when our Minnesota weather is cooperating.

Honestly, family child care was not one of my answers to the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" It just kind of fell into my lap. As a stay at home in my early twenties, a friend asked me if I'd watch her new baby and suggested the idea of becoming licensed. I thought, "Sure! Why not?" I mean, it sounded like a fun adventure and what an adventure it has turned out to be!

In the past twenty-five years, our profession of family child care has evolved, and I've done my best to bloom where I've been planted. At last count, 140 children and their families have spent time learning and growing in our home. I've earned AAS and BA degrees in Child Development (with the help of the TEACH scholarship) and an MA degree in Family Life Education. Once my schooling was completed, a friend suggested that I give training a shot and of course, I thought, "Sure! Why not!" Notice a trend? I've been a professional development trainer for early childhood educators since 2013. I got my start at the MLFCCA conference with an Active Supervision training. A shout out to those of you that were in that class nearly 10 years ago! You gave me the confidence to keep going! Since then, I've authored over 25 face-to-face and online courses and have facilitated trainings all over the state of Minnesota. Training has provided me with the privilege of meeting many of you and being inspired by your journeys in the profession of licensed family child care.

Through the ups and downs, family child care remains the best gig around and there's nothing I'd rather do. There are so many benefits to our work including the impact that family child care providers make in the lives of children and families every single day and the fact that I can wear yoga pants to work, and no one bats an eye. It truly is a gift to be a part of children's lives in these important early childhood years and I'm grateful to be in this profession with so many other early childhood educators like you!

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MISSION STATEMENT:

The Mission of the Minnesota Child Care Provider Information Network (MCCPIN) is to support, promote, and strengthen the profession of licensed family child care, thereby enriching the lives of providers, children, families, and communities.

Professionalism

It's not the job
you do,
it's how you do
the job.

PROFESSIONALISM

A professional association is an organization of people who work within the same field and collaborate to make advancements in their field.

WHAT IS AN ASSOCIATION?

According to the IRS, an association is "in general, an association is a group of persons banded together for a specific purpose." Business associations are organizations that bring together business owners from a specific area, and a business association can provide a number of benefits to business owners who elect to pay dues and participate as members. MCCPIN is a Business association for Licensed Family Childcare Providers in Minnesota.

WHY JOIN THE STATE ASSOCIATION?

Engage with a Professional Community Who Cares About YOU!

Enhance your network, broaden your knowledge, educate yourself, and take charge of your small business!

- Stay Current with Changes
- Help Advocate for Your Industry
- Align with Standards of Quality
- Position Yourself as a Leader
- Professional Development Opportunities
- Demonstrate you are a Professional

Joining a professional association like MCCPIN, shows that you are committed and dedicated to growing and learning within your career field. According to mindtools.com, professionalism is a powerful quality. It allows you to fulfill your role to the best of your ability, and it helps you impress and inspire others. Finally, it gives you a deep sense of satisfaction and self-worth.

LET THERE BE PEACE

Once again, our world is giving us one more crisis to grapple with. Once again, we as primary care providers we are in the position to daily support our families and the children in our care.

But how Should we ignore the conflicts and act as everything's ok? Should we show conflict and get children involved? Or is there something in the middle?

A first step is to ensure that you are caring for yourself. As the message on the airplanes tell us "Put your air mask on first".If you don't, you can't care for anyone around you. Find ways to refresh, keep news in balance, find safe supportive people to talk with. Consider taking the approved course: Active Supervision: Provider Self-Care and Privacy (classroom and Eager-To-Learn).

Keep the news off, keep the conversations down, keep emotions calm. Check the facts and respond in constructive manners. We want to know what's happening in the world, we want to discuss with other adults.Always remember, the children are watching & listening. They do not have a filter to tune us out. The pick up on our every stress.

[Talking_to_Kids_about_Ukraine-Tipsheet.pdf](#)

[How to talk to children about the invasion of Ukraine, and why those conversations are important](#)

Check out Common Sense Media @ commonsense.org/education to up your game on the impact of media on children.



LET THERE BE PEACE CONTINUED

Find ways to connect and empower ourselves and our children. Use of the symbols of Ukraine: colors yellow & blue and sunflowers-time to plan those sunflower gardens.

Try Pysanky Ukrainian eggs! Spring and Easter give us many opportunities to utilize the egg shape and the Pysanky eggs can be adapted to all age groups by using real eggs, craft eggs or black construction paper. The internet and Teachers-Pay-Teachers have many resources and methods of how to adapt this complex egg coloring method to many age groups.

[Montessori Easter Activities: Ukrainian Easter Eggs in Culture and Science Curriculum](#)

[Montessori Teacher Training Blog](#)

[Drawing Pysanky - Ukrainian Easter Eggs — KinderArt](#)

It's spring and time to refresh amongst the storms that life gives us.



The children are watching!

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that every has.

- Margaret Mead

That's it in a nutshell. Don't like the way things are going for Licensed Family Child Care? Concerned about regulations which affect your child care? Fearful that you'll lose your business to public pre-schools?

You can change the world! Well, at least what happens in Minnesota regarding childcare and early childhood education. The truth is, it doesn't take much effort to engage and make a difference. Doing nothing however leaves you with stress which takes a ton of energy!!

Understand the process (this is federal language but applies to state process):

- [Schoolhouse Rock- How a Bill Becomes a Law - YouTube](#)
- [How a Bill Becomes a Law - Minnesota Legislature \(mn.gov\)](#)

MCCPIN Public Policy Chairperson (Cyndi Cunningham) and MCCPIN public policy committee members are dedicated to ensuring that Licensed Family Child Care is always at the table, in the discussions and that impact of decisions includes how a decision will impact LFCC businesses.

We've made great progress! MCCPIN is 'at the table' at nearly all agency discussions, hearings, and meetings with advocacy groups both in Minnesota and nationally. Work behind the scenes is critical and we're there.

The children are watching! (cont)

Hot Topics this session to watch for:

- Child Care Regulations Update: Includes Safe Sleep, very few other regulations are being updated at this point in time
- Stabilization Grant, increased and extended funding
- Health Care plan supports
- Special License (pod model) funding, this is family child care licensed not in a private home

Where to keep informed?

- Current MCCPIN Bill Tracker: [Minnesota Legislature \(mn.gov\)](https://mn.gov)
- Child Care Aware MN Bill Tracker: [Bill Tracker- March 21, 2022 \(childcareawaremn.org\)](https://childcareawaremn.org)
- Fall Implementation Guide

What to do?

Contact your legislator asap!!! [LCC-GIS \(mn.gov\)](https://mn.gov) It's always a good time to do take this step. This is where you make the biggest impact! They are to be responsible to constituents. These are elected officials and you are the expert in your area! They frequently do not know what is needed and look to legislators around them to gain perspective. They need your perspective! Let them know your concerns and hopes. Let them know that you will be engaged, and they can reach out to you for perspective. Build that relationship so when there is discussion or a vote at our state capital, Licensed Family Child Care is in their minds!

The children are watching! (cont)



Engage your families: They should be deeply concerned about our programs and likely do not understand the impact of funding public programs and the demise of private childcare. Share information you have, engage in conversations. Families will not have you as an option for care if you can't support your business!

Elections are coming! Start engaging with candidates in your district now! Watch local news, Facebook, listen to your community for whose running. Ask questions! What are their goals for your district? What do they know or need to know about childcare and in particular how to support Licensed Family Child Care. [Minnesota Secretary Of State - Elections & Voting](#)

The children are watching! (cont)

Write testimony: but what's that you ask? It's a formal letter written by you to a committee on a specific bill being heard on a specific date. So....

- **Track bills listed in bill trackers and posted by MCCPIN**
- **Respond to notices** from MCCPIN and others, note the deadlines to submit, bill # and who to send to
- **Check facts:** Reach out to MCCPIN Public Policy or whomever posts about a bill.
- **Format:** Keep it simple, write your perspective it doesn't have to be perfect!

Date

Bill #

Dear Chairperson and Committee members

I'm writing in (support/opposition/concern) of Bill #.

I am.... (Include your name, location, role of Licensed Family Child Care provider, # of years, and anything else that you deem important to give credibility to the topic)

(Reasons you support or oppose the bill. Think of topic sentences with a few sentences to support. Keep this brief. Legislators have limited time to read detail, make it clear what your points are, they typically know or will hear the background detail to the bill).

Sincerely,

Reach out to Cyndi at MCCPINpublicpolicy@gmail.com, cyndisday@comcast.net or 651-470-4857 for clarification or assistance on topics. If you're interested in getting more involved there are committees and board positions to step into!

CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS

We all know a child that has had challenging behaviors. These behaviors interfere with their learning, development, and success at play. The behaviors can be harmful to the child and to others. These behaviors put a child at risk for social problems and school failure as they get older. Children do not have much control over their behaviors. These behaviors are challenging for the child. It is also challenging for the parents and their caregivers. We find ourselves at a loss and needing help to get the child back on track.

Here are some simple ideas to help children succeed while in your care.

- Organize materials in the room. Children succeed better with structure and routine.
- Label shelves and buckets. Children do better with less adult reminders.
- Provide an area for a quiet space. This will help children when feeling overwhelmed. Add in soft pillows, stuffed animals, and books.
- View the room from their eye level. Are there wide-open spaces to run? Rearrange the room to slow traffic down.
- Assess the materials in your room. Do you have enough of the favorite toys, that way there is no fighting over that toy? Too many materials in the room can be overwhelming and overstimulating. Fewer choices are better for younger children.
- Provide a routine. Children like to know what is next.
- Keep the number of transitions down. Transitions are a difficult time for some children. Use them less often to avoid challenging behaviors.
- Provide snacks. Children maybe hungry and need to a snack. Have access to a simple sugar-free snack.
- Keep expectations the same. This helps children learn how to behave. We will confuse them if we are changing expectations all the time.

Remember the key to improving challenging behaviors is to build a trusting, nurturing relationship with the children. Learn their interests and use positive reinforcement. Children need to feel safe while in your care.