

# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

This month's topic: Autism Spectrum Disorders

## Upcoming Statewide Events

### FREE Parent Transition Night

Join the Transition Improvement Grant (TIG) & Wisconsin Statewide Parent Education Initiative (WSPEI), in collaboration with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) & Aging Disability Resource Center (ADRC) for an informational event.

**Date:** 3/26/14, 6-8pm

**Location:** Independence First, Milwaukee

**To Register:** Register for this event through [www.wsti.org](http://www.wsti.org) (Go to the Calendar of Events and click on March 26th, and event titled Your Child Can Work ~ then select "Register") Similar trainings at other CESAs can also be registered for on the website. Attendees will be prompted to register for an account if one has not been set up already.

### Parent to Parent Training

Support Parent Training through Parent to Parent Wisconsin Become a volunteer and help meet the increasing need for peer support by becoming part of Wisconsin's Network of Support Parents. The training is free! Space is limited.

**Date:** 3/29/14, 9-3

**Location:** Columbus Community Hospital

**To Register:** Call Robin Mathea at 715-361-2934

### Employment First Conference

This conference is for anyone who is interested in integrated employment for people with disabilities. Choose from a wide variety of breakout sessions.

**Date:** 4/3/14

**Location:** Kalahari Resort, WI Dells

**To register:** Visit <http://www.wi-bpdd.org/>

### Introduction to Special Education, IEPs & Communication

FREE Training Seminar presented by Don Rosin of WI FACETS. Get three important topics in one workshop.

**Date:** 4/18/14, 6-8pm

**Location:** Bowler/Stockbridge Tribal Rec. Center

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

### Using Educational Media at Home

By Matthew Zellmer

Adapted from the HFRP FINE Newsletter, Vol. V, Issue 1

For the full article, go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/pduv5qq>



Love them or hate them, laptops, smartphones and tablets are here to stay. So the question before families is how to merge "screen time" at home with its educational uses. (This relates directly to Joyce Epstein's fourth strategy for family involvement, "Learning at Home.") For more on these strategies, see the "Research to Read" section.)

A national survey of nearly 1,600 parents of children ages 2 to 10 examined how families are selecting educational media for their children. The survey defined educational media as "content that is good for their child's learning or growth, or that teaches some type of lesson, such as an academic or social skill."

Parents considered almost half of their children's screen time to be educational, and they reported that most of that content came from TV rather than computers and mobile devices. Math was the only core subject for which children were said to have learned more from the computer than educational TV. Additionally, parents ranked mobile devices as the least effective tool for learning, even below computer games.

The survey also found that many parents found educational media through independent browsing, while 40% received recommendations from teachers. More than half the respondents said they desired more guidance in locating quality media to support their children's learning. Lower income, less educated and Hispanic and

Latino families were the groups most likely to express this sentiment.

Perhaps the most interesting findings related to children's application of educational media. Children had asked questions of their parents based on the content of said media in 77% of cases, and 60% of parents said their kids had taught them something they learned from educational media.

To take the use of educational technology to the next level, parents and children need to learn and engage with it together. Research shows that when families use technology together, it enhances the educational value of the experience. The survey found that co-viewing of educational TV was much more common than joint use of computers or mobile devices.

The survey also showed that co-use of educational media declines as children age. Teachers might be able to reverse this trend by beginning to assign media use at home, because in order to maximize their value for learning, all stakeholders should be united.

## RESEARCH TO READ

### Partnering with families and communities

Epstein, J. L., & Salinas, K. C. (2004). Partnering with families and communities. *Educational leadership*, 61(8), 12-19.

Abstract:

A well-organized program of family and community partnerships yields many benefits for schools and their students. This article can be accessed by going to: <http://tinyurl.com/oxrool4>.

Click on [mnliteracy.org](http://mnliteracy.org) next to the first search result.

### Physical exercise and individuals with autism spectrum disorders: A systematic review

Lang, R., Koegel, L. K., Ashbaugh, K., Regester, A., Ence, W., & Smith, W. (2010). Physical exercise and individuals with autism spectrum disorders: A systematic review. *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*, 4 (4), 565-576.

Abstract:

This review of 18 studies explains that incorporating physical exercise interventions

for individuals with ASD could decrease stereotypy, aggression, off-task behavior and elopement. It examines each study and explains to the reader how, and in what respects, the exercise interventions can be beneficial. This article can be accessed by going to <http://tinyurl.com/PhysicalExerciseinASD> and clicking [PDF from researchgate.net] next to the first search result.

## Upcoming Statewide Events

### Supporting Healthy Sexuality in Transition-Aged Youth

Certified sex educator Terri Couwenhoven will present valuable information on how to talk to youth with intellectual disabilities about this sensitive topic. The workshop is intended especially for parents of children 12 and up, but all are welcome.

**Date:** 4/5/14, 8am-12pm

**Location:** Children's Hospital of WI Corporate Center, Milwaukee

**To Register:** Email [serc@chw.org](mailto:serc@chw.org) or call 414-266-3188

### Self-Advocate Spotlight

Join us at Wisconsin FACETS as youth share their inspiring stories of overcoming challenges presented by their various disabilities. Attendees will see that disability is not a reason for despair, but a chance to make a difference in the world. The workshops are different, come to one or both!

**Date:** 4/8/14, 6-8pm

**Location:** WI FACETS, Milwaukee

**To Register:** Call Matthew Zellmer at 414-374-4645x203 or email [mzellmer@wifacets.org](mailto:mzellmer@wifacets.org)

### Introduction to Special Education, IEPs & Communication

FREE Training Seminar presented by Don Rosin of WI FACETS. Get three important topics in one workshop.

**Date:** 4/18/14, 6-8pm

**Location:** Bowler/Stockbridge Tribal Rec. Center

### WI Special Education Mediation System- Dispute Resolution Options (WSEMS)

FREE Training Seminar presented by staff of the WSEMS

**Date:** 4/23/14, 1:30-3:00

**Location:** CESA 7, Green Bay

### 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Autism Society of Wisconsin Conference

Hear from prestigious speakers, engage in valuable networking and visit the large exhibitor hall.

**Date:** April 24-26, 2014

**Location:** Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells

**For more information and to register,** visit <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e8dbvdhv8eafd0ab&llr=tgpmkab>

## RESEARCH TO READ

(Continued from page 1)

### The iPad and mobile technology revolution: Benefits and challenges for individuals who require Augmentative and Alternative Communication

McNaughton, D., & Light, J. (2013). *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 29(2), 107-116.

**Abstract:**

This article discusses potential benefits and challenges of using iPads and other mobile technology for communication, as well as their relation to typical AAC technology. It can be accessed by going to <http://tinyurl.com/AACandtheiPad> and clicking [PDF from researchgate.net] next to the first search result.

### Effectiveness of the gluten-free, casein-free diet for children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder: Based on parental report

Pennesi, C. M., & Klein, L. C. (2012). *Nutritional neuroscience*, 15(2), 85-91.

**Abstract:**

387 parents were surveyed about their child with ASD's gluten-free/casein free diet, and the results indicate that GFCF diets can benefit the child's ASD behaviors, physiological symptoms, and social behaviors. This article can be accessed by going to <http://tinyurl.com/kcdoyvn> and clicking on the "Full Text" tab.

### Comparing the teaching interaction procedure to social stories for people with autism.



Leaf, JB, Oppenheim-Leaf, ML, Call, NA, et al (2012).

Study compared teaching of 18 social skills using social stories and 18 social skills with the teaching interaction procedure for 6 children with ASD. The teaching interaction procedure resulted in mastery of all 18 skills across the 6 participants. Social stories resulted in mastery of 4 of the 18 skills across the 6 participant. Participants also displayed more generalization of social skills with the teaching interaction procedure to known adults and peers. *J Appl Behav Anal*, 45(2), 281-98. This article can be accessed by going to <http://tinyurl.com/qefb9f2>

## STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIP: WISCONSIN FIRST STEP

Wisconsin First Step is a 24-7, statewide information and referral hotline that serves families who have children and youth with special needs, ages 0-21. It is staffed by parents of children with disabilities, and this personal experience can be very valuable in serving families and helping them learn from each other.

Wisconsin First step has two components. The first is its role as the Central Directory for Wisconsin's Birth To 3 Program, which provides services and supports to infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities and their families. The second is to work closely with the five Regional Centers for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs located throughout Wisconsin to provide a network

of services for families and providers. (To find a Regional Center near you, visit <http://southeastregionalcenter.org/home/other-regional-centers>.)

A health and human services of disability-related resources is available and regularly updated. This database is utilized by Parent Specialists and the Regional Center staff to give out information and disability-related referrals. Information on numerous types of services is available in the database, including educational and medical resources, therapy providers, parent support and networking groups, financial assistance and transportation providers.

Wisconsin First Step is operated by "First Call for Help" a

community service of Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, La Crosse, Wisconsin. To reach a Parent Specialist, call 1-800-642-7837.



## FEATURED ONLINE RESOURCES



**The IDEA Partnership**, a US Dept of Education national TA Center, created a series of tools to build common knowledge and understanding among policymakers, practitioners, and families related to evidence-based practices in autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The site includes stakeholder-created PowerPoint and Presenter Guides, [Dialogue Guides](#), and a resource guide related to ASD characteristics, supports/interventions etc., eligibility, programming, functional behaviour assessment, school wide social emotional learning, etc. For more information: <http://tinyurl.com/q32b8se>

**Modules from the National Professional Development Center in Autism Spectrum Disorders:** These modules are available on the Autism Internet Modules (AIM) website hosted by the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI). The AIM website features content from experts on ASD across the nation on topics including assessment and identification, characteristics, evidence-based practices and interventions, transition to adulthood, and employment. Information is presented at a universal reading level with activities providing support to those with introductory or advanced knowledge on ASD. For more information, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/ol7abd6>

**A Guide to Evidence-Based Practice Briefs:** The National Professional Development Center in ASD has also released this guide to assist families and professionals. Evidence-based practice (EBP) briefs have been developed for all 24 identified evidence-based practices. Select a practice in the list below to access the overview of the practice and downloadable PDF files for the EBP brief and the individual components. An evidence-based practice brief consists of the core components of an overview, implementation instructions, a checklist for implementation and a reference list that shows the practice meets evidence-based criteria. More information can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/k5xh49l>

**Waisman Center:** The Waisman Center is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge about human development, developmental disabilities, and neurodegenerative diseases. One of only 15 centers of its kind in the United States, the Waisman Center encompasses laboratories for biomedical and behavioral research, a brain imaging center, and a clinical bio-manufacturing facility for the production of pharmaceuticals for early stage human clinical trials. In addition to its research efforts, the Center provides an array of services to people with developmental disabilities, offers numerous early intervention, educational, and outreach programs to young children and their families, and trains scientists and clinicians who will serve our nation in the future. To explore resources, events and more, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/5s4n6>

**Help Guide:** Helpguide.org is an expert, non-profit, ad-free resource to help you resolve health challenges. Included on the site is a section about Autism featuring some helpful articles for parents. To read any of the articles, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/qz4tvlr>

**A Brief Parent Guide on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD):** Included in this booklet are questions that parents frequently ask when their school-age child receives an ASD diagnosis, and brief answers containing links to resources with more detailed information. You can read this booklet at: <http://tinyurl.com/oos7beg>



## Upcoming Statewide Events

### Circles of Life Conference

Join us for this family-oriented, diverse conference and receive a wide range of information, network with families and visit the many exhibits

**Date:** April 24-25, 2014

**Location:** Marriott West, Madison

**Registration now open at:** <http://www.colwisconsin.org/>

### Pizza Supper and Sharing Session on Special Education and Birth to 3

Families come and share your ideas about special education— What's working? What can be improved? What do you need as a parent? Free pizza & beverages. Panel of agencies invited to listen to you: WI FACETS, Disability Rights WI, WI DPI, WSPEI, WIBPDD, Birth to 3, Madison Metro. School District

**Date:** April 24, 2014 4:45–6:15 p.m.

**Location:** Marriott West, Madison

**Registration :** 877-374-0511 or [smcfarland@wifacets.org](mailto:smcfarland@wifacets.org)

### Endless Possibilities for Children with Learning Disabilities

Parents and professionals will learn about the new SLD eligibility requirements, how to support children at home and in school, and have an opportunity for networking. There will be a keynote speaker and many breakout session options to choose from. Don't miss this FREE conference!

**Date:** 5/3/14, 9-3:30

**Location:** Hotel Mead and Conference Center, WI Rapids

**To Register:** 877-374-0511 or [smcfarland@wifacets.org](mailto:smcfarland@wifacets.org)



## SUPPORT GROUPS

### Urban & Autism Support Groups

**Where:** WI FACETS

600 W. Virginia St., Suite 501, Milwaukee

**When:** 4/12/14, 11am-1pm

**Topic:** Extended School Year Services

### Grupo de Autismo

**Donde:** WI FACETS

600 W. Virginia St., Suite 501, Milwaukee

**Cuando:** 4/19/14, 10 AM-12 PM

**Tema:** Servicios de Año Escolar Extendido

## WI FACETS Phone Workshops

**Registration for all phone workshops:** Contact Sandra McFarland at 877-374-0511, [smcfarland@wifacets.org](mailto:smcfarland@wifacets.org) or on line at [www.wifacets.org](http://www.wifacets.org)

**Effective Communication with Your Child's School**  
**When:** 4/4/14, 12-1 PM  
**Presenter:** Don Rosin, WI FACETS

**Inclusion of Students w/ Disabilities in School to Work Programs**  
**When:** 4/9/14, 12-1pm  
**Presenter:** Brian Kenney, TIG

**Que es la Respuesta a la Intervencion or RtI?**  
**Quando:** 4/11/14, 12-1pm  
**Presenter:** Martha Lechuga, WI FACETS

**Individualized Education Program (IEP) Part I**  
**When:** 4/15/14, 12-1pm  
**Presenter:** Charlotte Price, WI FACETS

**PALS Assessment: What Parents Need to Know**  
**When:** 4/16/14, 12-1pm  
**Presenter:** Barb Novak, DPI

**Serving on Groups that Make Decisions**  
**When:** 4/17/14, 12-1 pm  
**Presenter:** Emilie Braunel, WI FACETS

**Individualized Education Program (IEP) Part 2**  
**When:** 4/22/14, 12-1pm  
**Presenter:** Joe Kluber, WI FACETS

**Understanding Families Raising a Child with Mental Health Needs**  
**When:** 4/23/14, 12-1pm  
**Presenter:** Kathryn Bush, WI FACETS

**Parents Using Data**  
**When:** 4/30/14, 12-1pm  
**Presenter:** Marsha Simon, Great Lakes Equity Center

## HOME-BASED INTERVENTIONS

### Reading

**Closed Captioning: Captions for Literacy** - <http://captionsforliteracy.org/learn.php>

Captioned videos and the use of closed captioning while watching a television program is a easy way to improve a student's literacy. Research has shown that captioning can help readers of all ages. It's especially helpful for those who are reading below grade level, have disabilities, or who are ESL/ELL students. Closed captioning can motivate reluctant or struggling readers too. The specific areas that captioning can improve include word recognition, word comprehension, vocabulary, identifying the main idea of a story, phoneme recognition, listening comprehension, and oral reading skills.

### Math

**Helping Your Child Learn Mathematics – U.S. Department of Education**  
<http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/math/math.pdf>

There are many things that parents can do, without lecturing or applying pressure, that can help children learn about math. Everyday interactions can help children learn to solve problems, communicate about math, and demonstrate skills. This resource distributed by the U.S. Department of Education is for parents who have a child age preschool through grade 5 and contains a variety of easy to do activities.

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## CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER

### **Next month's newsletter topic: Transition**

**There are two ways to submit contributions. Use either the online form at <http://bit.ly/WO9a39> or use the attached fillable PDF form for contributing articles, events, and resources.**

**Send the fillable PDF form submissions to [mzellmer@wifacets.org](mailto:mzellmer@wifacets.org)**

*Deadline for submitting contributions to each month's issue is by the 20th of each month at noon. For time sensitive training advertisements, the information should be sent a minimum of two weeks prior to the event date; ideally a month ahead of time. Material appropriate for the monthly newsletter include web links to sources of family involvement/parent leadership resources, advertisements for statewide trainings for parents, youth or parent/educator audiences, information about statewide parent agencies, recent research pertaining to family engagement, and family engagement success articles. Family engagement success or impact stories can be written at an individual or family level, classroom level, school building level, district level, county level, CESA level, etc. Your submittal may not be in the final copy of the upcoming month's newsletter if it was in a previous month's email, the event date has passed, the web link doesn't work, or there is already an article in place. Articles and resources will be saved to be used for later newsletters. We reserve the right to edit contributions as needed.*

*This month's update is provided by Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support (WI FACETS) to share statewide information regarding parent leadership and family involvement.*

◆ **WI FACETS website:** <http://www.wifacets.org>

**DISCLAIMER:** Inclusion of information in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement by Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training, and Support (WI FACETS), the Department of Public Instruction, the U.S. Department of Education, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**NOTE:** *If you would like to receive this monthly update or if you would like to have your name removed from the distribution list, please contact:*

**Matthew Zellmer**, WI FACETS SPDG Research Coordinator at 414-374-4645 x203 or [mzellmer@wifacets.org](mailto:mzellmer@wifacets.org).