

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

This month's newsletter topic: *Autism Spectrum Disorder*

Next month's topic: *Mental Health*

Upcoming Statewide Events

Reminder: WI Autism Leadership Network Pre-Conference

The Autism Society of Wisconsin, in partnership with WI FACETS is providing a full day of training and a networking opportunity for parents and providers who help families affected by autism in Wisconsin.

Date: April 18, 2013, 9-3:30

Location: Kalahari, WI Dells

Registration: \$20 includes training and lunch. Registration Fee is waived for those registered for the ASW Full Conference. Download the attachment, or pay online at

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e6z10v2260f15b12&lr=tdgpwmkab>

Reminder: ASW 2013 Annual Conference

Bridging to the Future: Autism Across the Lifespan, is open to educators, parents, individuals with ASD and other professionals. The incidence of autism spectrum disorders continues to rise at an alarming rate.

Dates: April 19-20, 2013

Location: Kalahari, WI Dells

Registration: Register online at http://www.asw4autism.org/conferences_workshops.html#Registration

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

Making Your Presence Known

By Matthew Zellmer

Families of children with disabilities often are nervous about leaving their kids in someone else's care during a seven-hour school day- even trained, experienced teachers. Many may feel that there really is nothing to do but trust that kids are in good hands. But according to one mom we talked to, there are creative ways for families to make their presence known at school.

After an instance in which she casually observed her son being picked on at school, mom began to fear for his safety and decided to become more visible at school. She became a regular presence in the

classroom and a fixture on field trips. Her desire was to observe her son in different situations so that if there is a problem she can immediately address it with staff and bring it up in an IEP meeting. Being so actively engaged in her son's education has helped her reinforce at home what he is learning in the classroom.

Mom keeps an open line of communication with all school staff and reports that no IEP team members have expressed concerns with her level of involvement, and everyone seems to understand one another. Mom credits special education training she has received and support groups she has attended with giving her the knowledge and

confidence to be her son's best advocate.

She knows that as her son gets older and moves toward high school, she will have to become less involved so he can grow and make more of his own decisions. But she will always strive to maintain good communication with the school. She also plans to continue receiving training and support as she feels she can use what she has learned to empower other families.



RESEARCH TO READ

Perceived Autonomy Support in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

<http://www.omicsgroup.org/journals/2165-7890/2165-7890-S3-001.pdf>

Shea NM, Millea MA, Diehl JJ (2013) Perceived Autonomy Support in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Autism* 17(3): 001.

Abstract: This study examined the relationship

between autonomy support, self-determination, scholastic competence and social acceptance in ASD. Twenty-six participants with high-functioning ASD completed self-report measures related to autonomy support, friendship, and academics. The

researchers found that greater teacher autonomy support was related to higher self-determination in school, and in turn, higher scholastic competence. This study highlights the importance of fostering self-determination in both the academic and social lives of individuals with ASD.

Regional Special Education Conference (WI FACETS in collaboration with WSPEI, CESA 2 & CESA 4)

TOPIC: HELLO, I'M OUT OF CONTROL! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT? Children need support, not anger; understanding, not blame; love, not frustration. This workshop will help parents react to difficult behaviors positively to support growth.

When: April 13, 8:30am-12:15pm

Location: Wintergreen Resort & Conference Center, WI Dells

Registration: Contact Sandra McFarland at: 877-374-0511; smcfarland@wifacets.org or at www.wifacets.org

2013 Circles of Life Conference

Wisconsin's Annual Conference for Families of Children with Disabilities & Professionals

Dates: April 25-26, 2013

Location: Holiday Inn & Convention Center, Stevens Point

Registration: Brochure and Registration forms can be found on the Circles of Life Conference website at

www.colwisconsin.org.

Third Annual Waisman Center Day with the Experts: Down Syndrome

Participants will learn about the latest advances in Down syndrome research, and will hear firsthand from a panel of experts—individual(s) with Down syndrome and their families.

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2013

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (Complimentary coffee & bagels at 8:30 a.m.)

Location: Friends of the Waisman Center Auditorium 1500 Highland Avenue, Madison WI 53705

Cost: Free admission & parking.

Registration: Please pre-register since capacity is limited. To register visit:

<http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/events/experts/Downsyndrome.html>

or contact Teresa Palumbo, palumbo@waisman.wisc.edu or 608.263.5837

RESEARCH TO READ

Interventions for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Inclusive School Settings

<http://education.ucsb.edu/autism/documents/articleforwebsite.pdf>

Lynn Koegel, et al., *Cognitive and Behavioral Practice* (2011), doi: 10.1016/j.cbpra.2010.11.003

Abstract: Students with ASD present unique challenges to school systems. Despite these challenges, federal laws require that schools implement research-based practices in the least restrictive environment (LRE). Ensuring students with ASD receive effective intervention in these least restrictive and inclusive school settings will

depend, in part, on the extent to which teachers and school personnel are prepared to implement research-based interventions. The purpose of this article is to provide a summary of research-based interventions for students with ASD. The focus in this summary is on interventions that can be implemented in inclusive school settings by teachers and classroom support personnel. The article first provides a general overview of interventions designed to reduce challenging behavior, teach communication skills, and improve social



relationships. Then it is followed by a discussion of the obstacles to intervention implementation that may be present in school settings. Finally, the study concludes by offering a list of intervention guidelines.

STATEWIDE PARENT AGENCY:



A new report from the National Center for Health Statistics indicates that now 1 in 50 children has an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). As the number of people with ASDs has increased, so have the knowledge and resources available to help families ensure the best possible lives for their children. The Autism Society of Wisconsin (ASW) is one such resource.

The Autism Society of Wisconsin is dedicated to

improving the lives of all affected by autism in Wisconsin by providing information, resources, advocacy, and by raising awareness and acceptance. ASW sponsors an annual spring and fall conference, a free quarterly newsletter, provides information and referral and monitors a peer support listserv. In addition, ASW wants to help families new to the diagnosis find the information and resources that may be needed to

helped a loved one. Their [Next Steps Booklet](#) is a guide for families new to the diagnosis of autism.

The Autism Society of Wisconsin is the voice for autism in Wisconsin, advocating for individuals with autism, their families and those who work with them. To connect with ASW, visit <http://www.asw4autism.org/#> or call toll-free (888) 428-8476.

FEATURED ONLINE RESOURCES

TOPIC: AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) fifth edition

How will the new edition of the DSM affect your child with autism? The Autism Research Institute offers information regarding the changes that families may expect and how they will affect the diagnosis of autism. There will be more thorough and strict criterion used to for identification. This could mean a child diagnosed with Asperger's or Pervasive Developmental Delay, not otherwise specified (nos) may not qualify for this diagnosis when reevaluated. It is important for parents to educate themselves on the changes and think about the impact it will have on their child and their family.

http://www.autism.com/index.php/news_dsmV

The National Association of School Psychologists and the Mental Health And Education Center

This article offers a place for families and educators to start a conversation about autism in general and autism specific to an individual child. It outlines issues like basic facts, characteristics, interventions, and more. The article is written in plain language and an easy read for even the busiest of people. One idea would be to share the article with the teachers with whom you work and after a couple of days offer to answer any questions the reader might have.

http://www.nasponline.org/resources/handouts/Autism204_blue.pdf

Autism Treatment

This article describes barriers that parents of children with autism face in the area of family engagement. Some of the barriers described could be true for other families of children of special needs. It is important for professionals to understand and accept the existence of these barriers without passing judgment. The information provided has the potential to help parents feel less isolated as they realize other families have the same barriers that prevent them from being as involved in therapy and school as they would like to be.

<http://www.travisithompson.net/About%20Autism/page16/>

Autism Now

This is the National Autism Resource and Information Center and is an easily navigated web-site. Information is provided within specific contexts such as home, on the job, school, and the community. In addition information can be found by a topic search. You will also find webinar offerings, news, and available resources.

<http://autismnow.org/>



WI FACETS Regional Special Education Conference:

“Transition Planning: Culture, Barriers, Resources and Everything In Between”

Date: May 4th, 8:30am to 3pm

Location: UW Superior campus

Cost: FREE—Materials and resources will be shared and are free to all who register.

Registration: Contact Sandra McFarland at

smcfarland@wifacets.org

Intersecting Interests

Training/Technical Assistance

A two-day process meeting to strengthen efforts in providing consistent, accurate and relevant PD to the broad early childhood workforce to improve Inclusive Practices in WI.

Date: May 16-17-2013

Location: Paper Valley Hotel & Conference Center, Appleton

Register by 4/24/13 online at

[https://](https://uwmadison.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_aVHZ9gaHwCWuAOI)

[uwmadison.qualtrics.com/](https://uwmadison.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_aVHZ9gaHwCWuAOI)

[SE/?](https://uwmadison.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_aVHZ9gaHwCWuAOI)

[SID=SV_aVHZ9gaHwCWuAOI](https://uwmadison.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_aVHZ9gaHwCWuAOI)

Questions: contact Ann

Ramminger at

www.ramminger.waisman.waisman.wisc.edu

Job Coaching 101

The Wisconsin Community of Practice on Transition is providing a free training on the topic of job coaching for Teachers, Paraprofessionals, Employment Specialists, Managed Care Staff and Vocational Rehabilitation Professionals.

Dates & Locations:

- April 30th: West Allis (Milwaukee Area Technical College—West Allis Campus): 8:30am to 2:30pm
- May 2nd: Madison (Madison College—West Campus): 8:30am to 2:30pm

Cost: FREE!

Presenter: Nancy Molfenter

Registration: Space is limited!

Register online by visiting

www.wsti.org “Calendar of Events”

Questions: contact

Wendi Dawson at

wendi.dawson@dpi.wi.gov

(608) 266-1146

UPCOMING WI FACETS WORKSHOPS

To register: Contact Sandra McFarland at (877) 374-0511 or smcfarland@wifacets.org. Register online at www.wifacets.org.

WI FACETS: Post-Secondary Planning for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

When: 4/17/13, 12-1pm

Location: phone

Presenter: Daniel Parker, WI Department of Public Instruction

WI FACETS: Processes of Decision-Making Groups

When: 4/18/13, 12pm & 7pm

Location: phone/webinar

Presenter: Emilie Braunel, WI FACETS.

WI FACETS: Assistive Technology Information for Families

When: 4/23/13, 12-1pm

Location: phone/webinar

Presenter: Emilie Braunel, WI FACETS

WI FACETS: Grupo de Autismo: Apoyo Academicos y de Comportamiento Disponibles para los Estudiantes PBIS/RTI

When: 4/27/13, 10am-12pm

Location: WI FACETS office, Milwaukee

WI FACETS: Introduction to Serving on Groups that Make Decisions

When: 5/2/13, 12pm & 7pm

Location: phone/webinar

Presenter: Emilie Braunel, WI FACETS

WI FACETS: Apoyos Academicos y de Comportamiento Disponibles para los Estudiantes PBIS/RTI

When: 5/9/13, 12-1pm

Location: taller por telefono

WI FACETS: Data and What It Means

When: 5/10/13

Location: LCO, Hayward

Presenter: Don Rosin, WI FACETS

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER

Next month's newsletter topic: *Mental Health*

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 or ebraunel@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 WI FACETS to share statewide information regarding parent leadership and family involvement.

* **WIFACETS website:** <http://www.wifacets.org> 

Please visit the following links to the Parent Leadership Hub web page of the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) website:

* **Just in Time Information (JITI):** http://wispdg.org/pl/res_jit.html

* **Resources:** <http://www.wispdg.org/pl/resources.html>

* **Multi-Media Workshops, Video and Webcasts:** <http://wispdg.org/pl-multi.html>

DISCLAIMER

Inclusion of information in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement by Wisconsin 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:

Emilie Braunel, WI FACETS SPDG Coordinator at 715-561-2559 or ebraunel@wifacets.org

Matthew Zellmer, WI FACETS SPDG Research Coordinator at 414-374-4645 x203 or mzellmer@wifacets.org.

