

# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

## Upcoming Statewide Events

**8th Annual Autism Awareness Essay Contest** sponsored by **The Autism Society of Wisconsin**. This year, the essays will be entitled **"Learning about Autism: Tales of our Friendship"**. The contest is being held to recognize positive friendships between students with autism and their peers.

We are looking for essays that show true friendships between students with autism and their peers.

Students or classes who choose to participate are required to have each essay stapled to the appropriate entry form and have all entry forms completely filled out.

**Mail to:** ASW, PO Box 66, De Pere, WI 54115, with a postmark no later than **March 9th, 2013**.

**Questions or Comments:** please email [mpenasa@asw4autism.org](mailto:mpenasa@asw4autism.org) or call 920-973-6636.

### 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](http://www.colwisconsin.org).

## IMPACT OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

### A Grandmother's Love

A grandmother takes guardianship of her grandson without a second thought and raises him.

The young man starts school and has a lot of issues with the school, school rules, and school personnel. In third grade, he starts to act out verbally and physically to others. Grandma needs help and contacts the tribal offices and they contact an advocate with WI FACETS.

Grandma cannot understand why her grandson acts this way because he does not act this way at home. He is raised in a very traditional and cultural native way. She talks about how her grandson is being picked on and they don't like him up there (school). After talking and venting her



concerns and anger, she realizes that her grandson hears her say those things and repeats those things he has heard at home from grandma. She talks and listens as the advocate explains that there are a lot of hard feelings she has against the school because of past dealings of her children but this is about her grandson and not about the past. She responds, "I love my grandson but I need to teach him not only traditional ways but also to live those ways."

Grandma meets with the school personnel and

explains to them that she is sorry for letting other things influence her respect and trust with them and is only concerned about her grandson's education and how can I help you. Teach me how to fit into and support your system and you can come and see how I live in my traditional ways. The school staff agrees to come do a home visit and other visits after but also to teach grandma how to support her grandsons educational pursuits. She says, "Education is something you cannot take for granted and I need to teach my grandson that when he is in the school and acts bad, that reflects on her as his grandma. Teach me and I will teach you and then we both can learn together."

*By Don Rosin*

## RESEARCH TO READ

### Frameworks for Response to Intervention in Early Childhood: Description and Implications

[http://www.dec-sped.org/uploads/docs/about\\_dec/position\\_concept\\_papers/DEC\\_NAEYC\\_NHSA%20Joint%20Paper%20on%20RTI%20in%20Early%20Childhood\\_final.pdf](http://www.dec-sped.org/uploads/docs/about_dec/position_concept_papers/DEC_NAEYC_NHSA%20Joint%20Paper%20on%20RTI%20in%20Early%20Childhood_final.pdf)

In the world of early childhood education, there

is an increased focus on ensuring that all young children experience positive outcomes and enter school ready to learn.

Three national organizations (the Division for Early Childhood/DEC, the National Association for the Education of Young

Children/NAEYC, and the National Head Start Association/NHSA) have created a joint paper to promote a broader understanding and provide guidance on the relationship of Response to Intervention (RTI) frameworks to the unique contexts of early childhood (EC) programs.

**The Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD)** is hosting a series of **free trainings** on getting involved in the biennial budget around issues affecting the disability community called "From Info to Action." Issues addressed will include special education funding, Family Care/IRIS expansion, transportation, special needs vouchers, and the need to expand integrated employment, as well as many other disability-related issues. The remaining locations are LaCrosse, Oshkosh, Sheboygan, and Grafton.

**For more info** and the exact dates: <http://www.dawninfo.org/News4/post.cfm/attend-a-state-budget-advocacy-training>  
No RSVP is necessary.

#### **Disability Advocacy Day**

Hosted by The Survival Coalition of Disability  
**Where:** State Capitol, Madison  
**When:** March 20th  
Participants will be briefed on the issues and have legislative appointments set up for them. The day will also include a short rally and march (1 block long) from the hotel where the briefing occurs to the Capitol.

**More info/registration:** <http://www.survivalcoalitionwi.org/index.php/events/>  
There is no cost, but you MUST register.

#### **Keys to Success Conference**

Providing resources and information for parents, caregivers, educators and service providers of children with special needs, ages 3 - 21.

**When:** Saturday, March 23, 2013, 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Where:** Amery Intermediate School, Amery

**For registration information, contact:** Barb Garling: (715) 986-2020 or [barbg@cesa11.k12.wi.us](mailto:barbg@cesa11.k12.wi.us)

## RESEARCH TO READ

### **Establishing a Level Foundation for Life: Mental Health Begins in Early Childhood**

National Scientific Council on the Developing Child. (2008/2012). Updated Edition.  
<http://www.developingchild.harvard.edu>

A child's mental health has long-reaching effects on his or her human development. Similar to the way a wobbly table may not function well if the floor is uneven, the legs are not aligned, or the tabletop is not level, the consequences of

problems in mental health can be caused by many interdependent factors. Just as small "wobbles" in a table can become bigger and more difficult to fix over time, the effective management of mental health concerns in young children requires early identification of the causes and appropriate attention to their source, whether they reside in the environment, the child, or (most frequently) in both.

This report from the [National Scientific Council on the Developing Child](#) summarizes why understanding how emotional well-being can be strengthened or disrupted in early childhood can help policymakers promote the kinds of environments and experiences that prevent problems and remediate early difficulties so they do not destabilize the developmental process.

## STATEWIDE PARENT AGENCY:



## WISCONSIN FAMILY TIES

Raising a child with mental health challenges is often a daunting struggle. Families may want to help their child but not know how, and they may end up trying many things that fail in the end, leading to more confusion, hurt and anger for everyone. Other times, families and children may feel like there is no one out there to listen to and understand them.

Wisconsin Family Ties (WFT) is a nonprofit organization run by families for families that

include children and adolescents with social, emotional or behavioral challenges. Founded in 1987, its mission is to enhance lives by promoting children's mental health. WFT strives to help build understanding, acceptance and support in the community for families living with these challenges. They can also help families get the services their child needs in a friendly, non-judgmental way.

WFT's basic services for families are information

and assistance, training and education, advocacy, and support. More information for each category can be found by visiting <http://wifamilyties.org/#information> and clicking on a topic. All services are free statewide.

For information on how to connect with Wisconsin Family Ties, call (608)-267-6888 or toll-free (parents only) at 1-800-422 7145 or email [intake@wifamilyties.org](mailto:intake@wifamilyties.org) to begin receiving services.

# FEATURED ONLINE RESOURCES

## TOPIC: BIRTH TO THREE

### Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners

The Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners (WECCP) vision is that all children in Wisconsin will receive the necessary services and family supports to attain their optimal developmental potential during the critical early years from birth through age five. Their website has information and resources on a number of topics, such as Homelessness and Poverty, Serving Children with Disabilities, Serving Dual Language Learners, Curriculum and Assessment, and Early Identification.

<http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/>

### National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) provides professional development opportunities and resources, sets and publicizes early childhood standards, and builds public understanding and support for developmentally-appropriate activities and services of all young children and their families. Their website has quality, evidence-based information, resources, and materials for anyone working with or is a parent of a young child. <http://www.naeyc.org/>

### Zero To Three: National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families

Zero To Three is a national, nonprofit organization that informs, trains, and supports professionals, policymakers, and parents in their efforts to improve the lives of infants and toddlers. Their mission is to promote the health and development of infants and toddlers. Their website has information, materials and resources on care & education, public policy, maltreatment, and behavior & development. *Little Kids, Big Questions* is a series of 12 podcasts that translates the research of early childhood development into parenting practices that mothers, fathers and other caregivers can tailor to the needs of their own child and family. <http://www.zerotothree.org/>

### The Center for Early Literacy Learning (CELL)

The [Center for Early Literacy Learning](#) (CELL) has a new website to make resources more easily available for early childhood intervention practitioners, parents, and other caregivers of children, birth to five years of age, with identified disabilities, developmental delays, and those at-risk for poor outcomes. CELL has a wide array of freely available [parent- and practitioner-friendly products](#), including: practice guides for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers; videos and podcasts; and a selection of mini posters in interactive and printable versions. CELL has also developed research syntheses and other [products for researchers](#). To learn more about CELL's approach to early literacy learning, watch a [brief video introduction to CELL](#). <http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/>



### Advocacy for Change: A Family Leadership Institute (Family Voices of WI)

**Where:** Madison Concourse Hotel, Madison

**When:** April 3-4, 2013.

Participants will learn about state budget priorities affecting families and youth including health care, waiting lists, special education and children's long-term supports.

**Registration:** The registration fee, conference materials, lodging and meals will be covered by the sponsoring organizations. A limited number of applicants will be accepted based on their interest and past experiences with advocacy efforts.

### Family Voices of Wisconsin Parent Leadership Grants

Eligible for participants in the Leadership Institute will be eligible to apply to encourage and facilitate advocacy, systems change and policy efforts.

**More information and applications:** visit

<http://www.fvofwi.org>.

**Questions:** Contact Barbara J. Katz, Co-Director, Family Voices of WI at 608.220.9598 or [barb@fvofwi.org](mailto:barb@fvofwi.org)

### Regional Special Education Conference for Parents & Professionals (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, Wisconsin Dells, WI

**Registration:** Contact Sandra McFarland at: 877-374-0511; [smcfarland@wifacets.org](mailto:smcfarland@wifacets.org) or at [www.wifacets.org](http://www.wifacets.org)

## **UPCOMING WIFACETS PHONE WORKSHOPS**

**To register:** Contact Sandra McFarland at (877) 374-0511 or [smcfarland@wifacets.org](mailto:smcfarland@wifacets.org).

Register online at [www.wifacets.org](http://www.wifacets.org).

### **WI FACETS: Tips & Tools for Decision-Making Groups**

**When:** 2/28, 12-1pm or 7-8pm  
**Presenter:** Emilie Braunel, WI FACETS

### **WI FACETS: Trauma Free Crisis Intervention, Part 1**

**When:** 3/4, 12-1:30pm  
**Presenter:** Paula Buege, WI Family Ties

### **WI FACETS: How to Record Special Education Services in the IEP (I-9)**

**When:** 3/6, 12-1pm  
**Presenter:** Nissan Bar-Lev, CESA 7

### **WI FACETS: Trauma Free Crisis Intervention, Part II**

**When:** 3/11, 12-1:30pm  
**Presenter:** Paula Buege, WI Family Ties

### **WI FACETS: Functional Behavioral Assessment**

**When:** 3/12, 12-1pm  
**Presenter:** Rebecca Kassulke, WI FACETS

### **WI FACETS: Emotional Behavior Disability Eligibility Criteria: What Parents Need to Know**

**When:** 3/13, 12-1pm  
**Presenter:** Teri Dary, WI Dept. of Public Instruction

### **WI FACETS: Specific Learning Disability Eligibility Criteria: An Update**

**When:** 3/20, 12-1pm  
**Presenter:** Scott Brown, WI Dept. of Public Instruction

### **WI FACETS: Self Advocacy Workshop: Peaceful Conflict Resolution**

**When:** 3/20, 6-8pm  
**Where:** WI FACETS Main Office, Milwaukee  
**Presenter:** Matthew Zellmer, WI FACETS

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER

**Use the attached fillable PDF form for contributing articles, events, and resources. Send submissions to [mzellmer@wifacets.org](mailto:mzellmer@wifacets.org) or [ebraunel@wifacets.org](mailto: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.*

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*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](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:*

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