



## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

September, 2022  
Volume 11 | Issue 9



### Assistive Technology and the IEP Process

By Wendy Overturf

Assistive technology in an IEP may consist of devices and services. An assistive technology device is an item or piece of equipment that helps a person with a disability increase, maintain, or improve a student's functional capabilities.

[Read Entire Article](#)

## UPCOMING WI FACETS EVENTS

September 6, 2022

### [IEP 3: Evaluation & Eligibility in the IEP Process](#)

Presenter: Bonnie Vander Meulen, WI FACETS

September 7, 2022

### [ABLE to Save](#)

Presenter: Miranda Kennedy, M.P.P., Director of the ABLE National Resource Center

September 8, 2022

### [Comunicación efectiva con la escuela de su hijo con la escuela y el equipo de IEP](#)

Presenter: Sra. Nelsinia Ramos, de WI FACETS

September 14, 2022

### [Disabling Inequity in Wisconsin Schools](#)

Presenters: Jill Gonzalez and Mary Cerretti, Disability Rights Wisconsin

September 20, 2022

### [IEP 4: Reevaluation and Independent Educational Evaluations](#)

Presenter: Bonnie Vander Meulen, WI FACETS

September 21, 2022

[Providing Additional Supports for Students with Mental Health Challenges in the Schools](#)

Presenter: Hugh Davis, WI Family Ties and Anna Moffit

September 22, 2022

[Serving on Groups: Opportunities to Get Involved & Types of Groups \(Sections 1&2\)](#)

Presenter: Jan Serak, Serak Consulting

September 22, 2022

[5 ideas de cómo puedes participar más en la educación de su hijo](#)

Presenter: Daysi Jimenez, Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin

September 27, 2022

[Section 504: What Parents Need to Know](#)

Presenter: Bonnie Vander Meulen, WI FACETS

September 28, 2022

[Special Education Legal Updates](#)

Presenter: Paul Sherman, WI DPI

## HOME LEARNING



### Children's Activity Calendar

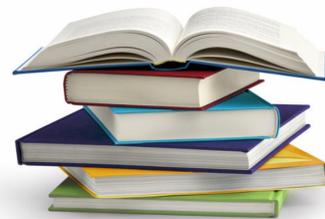
Head into fall with activities like playing around with punctuation, writing original music, celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, and trying craft activities.

[Download](#)



September 5, 2022  
Labor Day

Labor Day is a holiday in the U.S. that celebrates the hard work and accomplishments of workers in America and how they helped make our country strong and successful. Check this [link](#) for a short read aloud for kids about the history of Labor Day.



September 6, 2022  
Read a Book Day

Read a Book Day seeks to encourage reading. Parents can either have their child read to them or they can read to their child. Reading improves vocabulary and thinking skills, check out the benefits of reading on this [website](#).



September 11, 2022  
Grandparents Day

Celebrate this national holiday to honor grandparents and other special elders!

- Create a book or poster titled, "Why We Love Grandpa (or Grandma)." Have your child list the many reasons and add colorful illustrations.
- Have your child write a story, featuring grandparents or special elders as the main characters, complete with illustrations.



September 13, 2022  
Kids Take Over the Kitchen

Teaching children to cook not only educates them about nutrition, it also teaches them to make smarter food choices and take greater care in planning their meals. Cooking also helps build math skills. Almost every recipe requires accurate measuring and counting. Check this [website](#) for some kid-friendly recipes.



September 15, 2022  
Tomie dePaola's Birthday

The U.S. author and illustrator Tomie dePaola was known for his many children's books. He wrote or illustrated more than 270 books. One of the most popular characters he created is Strega Nona, whose name in Italian means "grandma witch." Listen to "[Strega Nona Her Story](#)" - A Read Aloud book by Tomie dePaola.



September 22, 2022  
First Day of Fall

Fall is a great time to get outside. The weather may be cooler, but usually still nice enough for outdoor family activities.

Take a walk and incorporate this early literacy activity which will practice the alphabet while identifying surroundings at the same time. The 'Alphabet Walk' can be played two ways.

- Pick a letter of the alphabet and try to find as many things as possible on your walk that begin with that letter (bird, bush, bakery, etc.).
- Use the entire alphabet and try to find something during your walk that begins

with every letter (apple, boy, car, dog, etc.). Also check out [“We’re going on a Leaf Hunt”](#) read aloud. Older children may enjoy learning about all the fun things you can see, learn about, and even eat in the fall by watching [“The Science of Fall”](#) video.

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## UPCOMING STATE EVENTS

### [Family Engagement Community of Practice & Learning](#)

The Family Engagement Community of Practice & Learning is for educators, families, caregivers, and others who want to see improvement in family engagement across the state of Wisconsin. Learn from experts in the field, participate in book studies, and other learning opportunities designed for educators, parents, families, and others. Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 4:00-5:30 pm via Zoom. Our two upcoming sessions are:

- September 14th—Elevating Family Voice in Schools
- October 12th—Partnering with Families through Challenges

### [The Reading League Wisconsin—Turning the Tide in Reading Instruction Fall Conference](#)

Intended audience includes classroom teachers, reading specialists and interventionists, special education teachers, speech-language pathologists, school psychologists, building and district administrators, reading tutors, and parents.

October 7, 2022 at Brookfield Conference Center, Brookfield, WI. *A virtual option is available.*

### [38th Annual State Superintendent's Conference on Special Education and Pupil Services Leadership](#)

This conference provides local directors of special education and pupil services with opportunities to network with colleagues from around the state as well as consultants and administrators from the Division for Learning Support at the Department of Public Instruction. Presentations will include information about current issues and changes in state and federal policy related to meeting the needs of students with disabilities and students facing other challenges to success in school. Keynote speaker will be [Jose L. Martín, J.D.](#)

October 11, 2022 at Glacier Canyon Lodge, WI Dells, WI

### [Engaging and Supporting Families through Groups and Networks](#)

The Statewide Family Engagement Community of Practice and Learning is excited to offer this FREE 4-part workshop series for families and educators. Using the Serving on Groups curriculum participants will: 1) learn how to form a group, identify a purpose and structures to ensure the group works well together, 2) assess and grow their own personal strengths, knowledge, and skills for effective participation and leadership within the group, and 3) create a plan that will engage and support families in their school and community.

Wednesdays (6:00-8:00pm) via Zoom on October (12 & 26), November (9 & 16).

### [Children Come First Conference](#)

Wisconsin's largest conference on children's mental health is geared for those working with, caring for or have a family member with a child that is suffering from behavioral or a mental health disorder. The event features national and international keynote speakers and 40 plus workshops. [Alfie Kohn](#) and [Dr. Lori Desautels](#) will be keynote speakers.

November 7-8, 2022 at Kalahari Convention Center, WI Dells, WI

### [Special Education - A New Era](#)

Join hundreds of teachers, administrators, support staff, counselors, school psychologists, parents, stakeholders and many more across the state and region for the premier Special Education Conference in Wisconsin. The featured speaker is Gerry Brooks, a long-time educator and elementary principal. Originally using humorous videos to encourage his staff,

Gerry has become a national encourager for teachers through social media and speaking events. He is a voice for teachers, but his passion is leading others to be responsible for their own personal climate and culture in the workplace. His book, "Go See the Principal," outlines strategies for taking on this responsibility.

November 14-15, 2022 at Kalahari Convention Center, WI Dells, WI

### [Building the Heart of Successful Schools](#)

This Conference connects and inspires Wisconsin educators in order to serve every student. Topics addressed at the conference support comprehensive school based mental health systems. (Note: A recording access only is also available)

December 8, 2022 at Glacier Canyon Conference Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI

### [Powerful Partnerships Book Study for Educators](#)

The Statewide Family Engagement Community of Practice and Learning is offering book study opportunities for educators across Wisconsin to engage in an exploration and discussion of what family engagement means and what effective practices look like. Each book study will take place over the course of two sessions. This FREE professional learning opportunity is open to all Wisconsin educators and school staff who want to work toward engaging all families.

Sessions are available in October (4th & 18th) and December (1st & 15th).

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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### [New Guidance Helps Schools Support Students with Disabilities and Avoid Discriminatory Use of Discipline](#)

New guidance released on July 19, 2022, from the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) helps public elementary and secondary schools fulfill their responsibilities to meet the needs of students with disabilities and avoid the discriminatory use of student discipline. It also has useful information for parents.

[Read Entire Document](#)

### [Supporting Students and Avoiding the Discriminatory Use of Discipline under Section 504](#)

Supporting Students with Disabilities and Avoiding the Discriminatory Use of Student Discipline under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 explains that Section 504 requires schools to provide behavioral supports and services to students with disabilities who need them in order to receive a FAPE.

[Read Entire Document](#)

### [Supporting the Needs of Children with Disabilities and IDEA's Discipline Provisions](#)

[Questions and Answers Addressing the Needs of Children with Disabilities and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act's \(IDEA's\) Discipline Provisions](#) and [Positive, Proactive Approaches to Supporting the Needs of Children with Disabilities: A Guide for](#)

[Stakeholders](#) expand upon the [2016 Dear Colleague Letter](#) that included data demonstrating that many children with disabilities, particularly black children with disabilities, were subjected to high rates of disciplinary removals (such as suspensions and expulsions).

Questions and Answers Addressing the Needs of Children with Disabilities and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act's (IDEA's) Discipline Provisions discusses how certain school actions, such as informal removals and the use of threat assessments, may result in the denial of FAPE to children with disabilities.

Positive, Proactive Approaches to Supporting the Needs of Children with Disabilities: A Guide for Stakeholders offers evidence-based strategies that early childhood programs, schools, and local educational agencies (LEAs) can use in place of exclusionary discipline or other harmful practices such as restraint or seclusion.

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## ONLINE RESOURCES: ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

### [Center for Parent Information and Resources \(CPIR\)](#)

Resource links related to assistive technology as well as links to checklists that IEP teams can use when considering assistive technology.

### [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction \(DPI\)](#)

This site has federal and state requirements that address assistive technology as it relates to the development of IEPs and implementation of special education.

### [National Center on Accessible Educational Materials \(AEM\)](#)

Agency providing technical assistance, coaching, and resources to increase the availability and use of accessible educational materials and technologies for learners with disabilities.

### [Bookshare](#)

Bookshare® is an ebook library that makes reading easier. Members can access a huge collection of ebooks and read “their way” with the most customizable ebooks for people with reading barriers.

### [SETT Framework](#)

The purpose of using the SETT Framework is to identify the characteristics of a Student, the Environments in which the student learns and grows, and Tasks required to be an active learner in those environments before trying to identify a system of Tools that enables the student to actively engage in the tasks in the environments.

### [Free Assistive Technology Apps](#)

Check this website for links to online assistive technology tools to help with reading, writing, and math.

### [Reading Rockets](#)

Find an introduction for parents about the role of AT in helping their children with a learning disability.

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## RESEARCH

[Literacy Acquisition for Students with Severe Disabilities: Making It Happen Through Assistive Technology](#)

Literacy is an established and valuable life skill for all students, including those with intellectual disabilities ([Downing, 2005](#)). A well-rounded literacy program will incorporate aspects of automatic sight words; mediated word strategies; comprehension at word, sentence, paragraph, and story level; and writing.

[Read Full Article](#)

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## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Upcoming newsletter topics:

October: Learning Disabilities

November: Emotional Behavioral Disabilities

December: Communication

To submit contributions of articles, events, or resources you may use the [Word document](#). Send submissions to [Wendy Overturf](#). If you are unable to access the form, you may send the information in an email.

Material appropriate for the monthly newsletter include web links to 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.

This monthly update is provided by Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support (WI FACETS) to share statewide information regarding parent leadership and family involvement. If you would like to receive this monthly update or if you would like to have your name removed from the distribution list, please email [WI FACETS](#).

The WI FACETS Family Engagement E-Newsletter can be found online [www.servingongroups.org/newsletter](http://www.servingongroups.org/newsletter)



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