



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

March, 2023

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The Importance of Vision Screening for Young Children

By Wendy Overturf

Early identification of vision problems and eye diseases is critical for optimal treatment. Without early detection and treatment, uncorrected vision disorders can impair child development, interfere with learning, and even lead to permanent vision loss. Moreover, visual functioning is a strong predictor of academic performance in school aged children, and vision disorders in childhood may continue to affect health and well-being through adulthood.

Kay Nottingham Chaplin, Ed.D., is the Education and Outreach Coordinator for [Prevent Blindness](#), working primarily with its [National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health \(NCCVEH\)](#). She provides technical assistance about all aspects of a vision and eye health program, including early detection through screening and program evaluation and improvement. Much of her work has focused on assisting states and school districts in creating or revising their vision and eye health guidelines to ensure that age-appropriate and evidence-based screenings are conducted, and that best practices are used to identify vision issues early and connect children to care, no matter their family's circumstances or zip code.

[Read Entire Article](#)

WI FACETS EVENTS

[Interacting with Youth with Mental Health Needs](#)

Presenter: Wisconsin Family Ties

Date: March 8, 2023

[IEP 4: Re-evaluación y Evaluaciones Educativas Independientes](#)

Presentadora: Nathaly Silva, WI FACETS

Date: March 9, 2023

[The Role of Forgiveness in Suicide Prevention & Recovery](#)

Presenter: Tim Markle, Founder of Forgiveness Factor

Date: March 15, 2023

[Preschool Inclusion for Students with Disabilities](#)

Presenter: Sue Erickson, WI Statewide Early Learning Technical Assistance & Implementation Specialist

Date: March 22, 2023

[IEP 5: Redacción del IEP- Parte 1](#)

Presentado: por WI FACETS

Date: March 23, 2023

[Understanding the Rule Change for Emotional Behavioral Disability](#)

Presenters: Eva Shaw & Tim Peerenboom, WI DPI

Date: March 29, 2023

HOME LEARNING



Children's Activity Calendar - March

World Poetry Day (March 21)

A time to appreciate poets and poetry. Check out these poetry read alouds:

[Daniel Finds a Poem SHIMMER: Songs of Night](#) (Poems for Kids)

National Crayon Day (March 31)

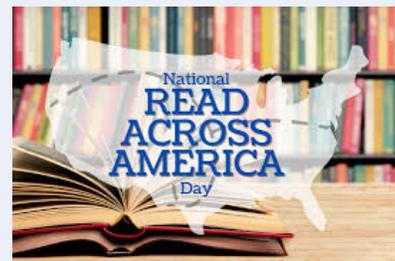
A box of crayons opens a world of imagination and hours of fun. Listen to [“The Crayon Man”](#) and try the variety of activities that go along with this true story about the history of crayons. [Fun places to color & create online.](#)

[Download Calendar](#)



National Peanut Butter Lovers Day

Most everyone from adults to kids loves peanut butter! National Peanut Butter Lover’s Day is celebrated on March 1st to appreciate the versatility of this food. Making treats together is a great family bonding activity and helps children practice reading and math



Read Across America Day

March 2 is National Read Across America Day, a day to celebrate reading. The day occurs each year on the birthday of beloved children’s book author Dr. Seuss. Reading ignites imagination, insight, and inspiration. It nourishes a child’s creativity and curiosity and

skills.

Try one of these Tasty Treats

- Make [no-bake peanut butter oatmeal balls](#) to give the body a burst of energy. A few colorful sprinkles on top add to the fun.
- [Peanut butter banana snacks](#) are simple, fresh, and packed with healthy fruit, fiber, and protein.

*Note: If anyone in the family has a peanut allergy, [peanut butter alternatives](#) may be used as appropriate.

inspires a passion for lifelong learning.

Reading is a great stress reliever.

Studies show that reading reduces stress by 68%.

Reading isn't everyone's strongpoint.

The more children read the more their skills develop. And of course, as Dr. Seuss says, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Reading is a great way to build vocabulary.

Children learn 4,000–12,000 words every year by reading.

[100 Children's Authors and Illustrators Everyone Should Know](#)



National Pi Day (March 14)

Pi Day is a celebration of the mathematical constant represented by the symbol π (pi). Pi Day is observed on March 14 (3/14 in the month/day format) since 3, 1, and 4 are the first three significant figures of π .

Take several different sizes of circles (different sized plates work well). Use a piece of yarn or string to measure the circumference (length of outer boundary). Then measure the length of the string and divide that number by the diameter (length from one side to the other) of the circle. No matter what the size the circle the result should be approximately 3.14. Watch the video [Pi for Kids](#). This is a great video to explain Pi to kids.

Bake a Pi(e). Kids practice math fundamentals while following a recipe. Assuming the pie is round, you can also talk about fractions, circumference, and of course pi ... as you eat your pie. [Check out a favorite pie recipe.](#)

Real World Math Activity

Math is all around us. Try this [simple activity](#) using grocery fliers to get children thinking about the real world math many parents use every day.

UPCOMING STATE EVENTS

[Supporting Neurodiverse Students Professional Learning System](#) (SNS)

The Supporting Neurodiverse Students (SNS) Professional Learning System, supported through a grant from the Wisconsin DPI, provides learning opportunities with a focus on regulation, social communication, flexibility, resilience, sensory processing, and executive functioning. It includes regional training sessions, web-based events, a web-based tool kit, and other professional learning opportunities to support educators and families

serving students with disability-related needs in the area of social and emotional learning (SEL).

Upcoming Events:

[Untangle the Strategies for Working with Students with Higher Impact Needs-Virtual Event](#)

March 8, 2023-8am-10am

[Processing Thinking - Resilience and Flexibility](#) This is a 4-session online cohort group event.

March 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2023-3:30pm-4:30pm.

[Training for Home Language Interpreters](#)

As a result of this training, participants can expect:

- Increased knowledge of tools and resources for interpreters as well as legal responsibilities and requirements related to translation and interpretation of special education, terms and concepts.
- Increased skills to handle common ethical considerations while interpreting IEP meetings.
- Increased awareness of state and federal laws, regulations and policies related to the educational rights of students who receive special education through an IEP and who also may be Multi-Language Learners (MLLs).

Date: March 24, 2023, 8am-2pm

Location: CESA 1, Pewaukee, WI

Click [here](#) for registration information.

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

The Family Engagement Community of Practice and 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 the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 4-5:30 pm via Zoom.

Upcoming schedule and topics:

March 8, April 12, May 10, 2023 - Topics to be determined

[13th Annual Prevent Suicide Wisconsin Conference-Save the Date](#)

Dates: April 13-14, 2023 - This will be an online conference.

[Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin Annual Conference](#)

The conference brings all members of the autism community together to connect to resources, knowledge, and each other. Registration information can be found [here](#).

Dates: April 20-22, 2023

Location: KI Convention Center, Green Bay, WI.

[Racine County Special Needs Resource Fair](#)

This event connects attendees with a wide range of agencies servicing children and young adults (birth-21 and beyond).

Date: May 2, 2023-4:30pm-6:30pm

Location: Waterford Union High School, Waterford, WI. Door 19

[Circles of Life Conference](#)

Dates: May 11-12, 2023

Location: Wilderness Resort, WI Dells, WI

Circles of Life is Wisconsin's annual conference for families who have children with disabilities and the providers and other professionals who support them.

[Wisconsin Summer Inclusion Institute 2023- Save the Date](#)

Dates: July 25-26, 2023

The 30th Annual Statewide Institute on Best Practices in Inclusive Education 2023 will be held virtually. It will celebrate inclusive practices across the state of Wisconsin and offer opportunities to learn from other professionals, consultants, and presenters as well as collaborate with your school teams, administration, co-

teachers, paraprofessionals, and families. Institute Staff & DPI Consultants will be available to assist you and your colleagues in planning and problem-solving. Additional information can be found here: [Wisconsin Summer Inclusion Institute Webpage](#)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

[IDEA Dispute Resolution Parent Guides and Companion Videos](#)

Following the Office of Special Education Program's (OSEP) release of a [Q&A on IDEA Part B Dispute Resolution](#) in July 2013, [The Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education \(CADRE\)](#) was asked to create a set of companion resources for parents and families. In response, CADRE developed six parent guides and a [process comparison chart \(Spanish version\)](#) with the support of parent leaders from across the country. These guides explain [facilitation](#), [mediation](#), [written state complaints](#), [due process complaints](#), [resolution meetings](#), and [expedited due process complaints](#). Most of the guides are available in the following languages: English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese (Simplified), Hmong, Korean, Russian, Vietnamese, Burmese, Portuguese, Japanese, and Somali. In addition, companion videos for each of the processes are now available in English and [Spanish](#).

[White House honors Wisconsin mom for helping people with disabilities get vaccinated.](#) In addition to her work with this effort, Delores Sallis is the founder of Parent University, which serves as a resource for black and other families of color and their loved ones with disabilities in the Milwaukee area. She was inspired by her son Albert, who lived with multiple disabilities and passed in 2021. According to Delores, Parent University "is a place where people can come there and be safe and happy and feel trusted in the neighborhood with their disabilities and their families and we'll support them." She has done several book type studies with families. These include [Opening Doors to Adult Services](#) created by the [WI Dept. of Public Instruction](#) and [Serving on Groups that Make Decisions](#) published by [WI FACETS](#). This resource is for families and helps them be better advocates for themselves and their families. To learn more about Parent University, contact Delores Sallis at 414-208-9410.

ONLINE RESOURCES: Early Childhood

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

This website has a variety of resources related to early childhood education. It also has a link to a [webinar series](#) on inclusion and early childhood education. Additionally, if you are concerned about your child's development [this section](#) of the website has tips for parents because there are many immediate things you can do to help your child. It also has information on early intervention services.

[Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program](#)

The first three years are the most important building blocks of a child's future. The Birth to 3 Program is a federally-mandated Early Intervention Program ([Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act—IDEA](#)) to support families of children with developmental delays or disabilities under the age of three.

[Significant Developmental Delay \(SDD\)](#)

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website has information related to SDD. Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams may now consider identifying SDD as a disability category for children ages 3 through 9, for both initial and reevaluations. A section on frequently asked questions related to SDD is also included.

[Too Small to Fail](#)

Too Small to Fail aims to help parents and businesses take meaningful actions to improve the health and well-being of children ages zero to five, so that more of America's children are prepared to succeed in the 21st

century. The website has an abundance of links to resources related to children from 0-5 years of age.

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

NAEYC is dedicated to improving the well-being of all young children, with a focus on the quality of educational and developmental services for children from birth through age 8. NAEYC administers a voluntary, national accreditation system for high-quality early childhood programs, sponsors a variety of initiatives to improve professional preparation of early childhood educators, and produces a wide array of early childhood resources.

[ZERO TO THREE](#)

ZERO TO THREE's mission is to support the healthy development and well-being of infants, toddlers and their families. This multidisciplinary organization advances its mission by informing, educating, and supporting adults who influence the lives of infants and toddlers.

[Wisconsin Head Start Association \(WHSA\)](#)

The Wisconsin Head Start Association (WHSA) is made up of 39 grantees providing Head Start and Early Head Start services to families throughout Wisconsin. They serve all of Wisconsin's 72 counties and interact with 424 school districts in the state. WHSA provides comprehensive services for over 16,000 of Wisconsin's youngest and most vulnerable citizens. WHSA provides a network for information, training, advocacy, support, and action for directors, parents, and staff of Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Wisconsin.

[Get Ready to Read](#)

It is critical to help young children be ready for school by working with them to develop early literacy and learning skills. Because strong reading skills form the basis for learning in all subjects, it is important to identify those who struggle with reading as early as possible. Children who have been read to at home come to school with important early literacy skills. This site has a rich variety of great information related to early literacy. The site also has videos and webinars of examples of how parents can promote literacy skills.

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Developmental Milestones](#)

Developmental milestones are a set of functional skills or age-specific tasks that most children can do at a certain age range. Your pediatrician uses milestones to help check how your child is developing. Although each milestone has an age level, the actual age when a normally developing child reaches that milestone can vary quite a bit as every child is unique. If parents have concerns about their child's development often a first step is to discuss those concerns with their pediatrician.

RESEARCH

Paraprofessionals' Perceptions of Behavior Problems in Elementary School Classrooms

Bronstein, B., Breenen, N., Glover, T. A., & Reddy, L. A. (2021). Paraprofessionals' Perceptions of Behavior Problems in Elementary School Classrooms. *The Journal of Special Education*, 55(3), 153–162.

[Read Full Article](#)

Paraprofessionals are increasingly being hired to support students with special needs in schools and are key implementers of behavior interventions for students. However, research is limited on how paraprofessionals perceive the management of student behavior. Using a mixed-methods design approach, the current investigation assesses paraprofessionals' perceptions of common student behavior problems in elementary school classrooms. Results indicate coached paraprofessionals had a greater likelihood of reporting operationally defined behavior concerns than those in a control group. A qualitative constant comparative method of analysis of paraprofessionals' behavior reports revealed themes of disruptive academic behaviors (off task, peer/verbal interactions, physical interference), aggressive behaviors (physical aggression toward people/objects, verbal aggression), noncompliance (physical/verbal refusal), and "other" behaviors

(unclear/opposite or positive actions). Implications for practice and future research are discussed.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Upcoming newsletter topics:

April: Autism Spectrum Disorders - May: Mental Health - June: ADD/ADHD

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



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