



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

April, 2023

Volume 11 | Issue 4



Tornado Safety for Children with Autism

By Wendy Overturf

While the focus of this month's newsletter is autism, the tips included on weather safety may be helpful to anyone, especially those with different abilities.

Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week in Wisconsin typically takes place in April and the statewide tornado drill will be on April 20, 2023. This annual campaign encourages everyone in the state of Wisconsin to prepare for the tornadoes and severe storms the state frequently experiences during the spring and summer months. It is also a perfect opportunity for families to review and practice severe weather safety procedures. While it is important to prepare all family members for the possibility of a tornado, it may be even more important if your child has autism.

The following are some basic tornado safety precautions taken from [ReadyWisconsin](#) website.

[Read Full Article](#)

UPCOMING WI FACETS EVENTS

[Youth Self-Advocacy: Introduction to Abilities Travel Club](#)

Presenter: Felicia Clayborne, WI Statewide Advocate

Date: April 5, 2023

[IEP 6: Redacción del IEP- Parte 2](#)

Presentador: WI FACETS

Date: April 6, 2023

[Fostering Self-Determination through the IEP Process](#)

Presenter: Nancy Farnon Molfenter, Assoc. Supt. of Student Services, Madison Metropolitan School District

Date: April 12, 2023

[The Transition IEP Checklist](#)

Presenter: Ann Zielke, WI FACETS

Date: April 18, 2023

[IEP 7: Redacción del IEP- Parte 3](#)

Presentador: WI FACETS

Date: April 20, 2023

[Taking Interactive Read Alouds to the Next Level to Engage Young Learners](#)

Presenter: Nicole Aldworth, Early Childhood Specialist, CESA 2

Date: April 26, 2023

HOME LEARNING



Children's Activity Calendar - April

Encourage a **Young Writer Day** – 4/10/23 - Inspire stories, journal entries and more with [300 Creative Writing Prompts for Kids](#).

National Laundry Day - 4/15/23 - A perfect time to focus on life skills for children. Use this [simple guide](#) for use of a washing machine.

[Download Calendar](#)



Earth Day - 4/22/23

Earth Day is a day to show how to care for our planet and all the animals and plants on it. Check out these resources.

[Recycle City](#) Explore ways kids and adults can reduce waste, reuse and repair things, recycle, and compost.

[Environmental Awareness Coloring Books](#)

[Make a Bird Feeder from a Plastic Bottle](#)

[How to Celebrate Earth Day with Your Family](#)

[Plan a Nature Scavenger Hunt with Your Tween](#)



National Walking Day - 4/5/23

The American Heart Association sponsors National Walking Day to remind people about the health benefits of taking a walk. This is a great activity to do as a family.

Use the ["Alphabet Walk"](#) chart to add some fun to the walk.

While walking, why not take some pictures of signs of spring? Later, have your child write a short description of each picture. If your child is not yet writing, have them describe the picture to you to build their vocabulary skills.

April is Math Education Month

Little things parents do every day can show preschool children that math is both fun and useful. Math is used every day whether measuring ingredients for a recipe or pressing a numbered button in an elevator. Here are some other examples:

- Together, use your phone to check the temperature outside, or step outdoors to feel the air around you. Is it higher or lower than it was the day before? By how much?
- Use measuring cups to measure different amounts of water during bath time.
- Mark children's height against a wall once every few months and point out the change each time.

Also check out these math read alouds: [Zero the Hero](#) [The Penny Pot](#)



Spring Break!

[Spring Break Activities for Kids at Home](#)

[Family-Friendly Trivia Questions for Kids](#)

Topics include Science, Space, Animal, History, Disney, Harry Potter. A great list for curious minds of all ages.

Here are some fun, economical activities that'll keep the kids busy all week!

- 1) Clean up the yard, then plant bulbs or a garden.
- 2) Arrange a day of bowling or roller skating with friends.
- 3) Purchase tickets to a basketball or hockey game.
- 4) Plan a day of arts and crafts or baking.
- 5) Visit a local museum, planetarium, aquarium or zoo.
- 6) Invite some friends over and host a game tournament.
- 7) Go see a matinee movie or have a film festival at home.

Have fun and make each day an adventure!



Autism Awareness Day - 4/2/23

World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) aims to put a spotlight on the hurdles that people with autism and others living with autism face every day.

The following videos may help to to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism.

[What is Autism? | Cincinnati Children's Hospital](#)

[What's Up with Nick?](#)

This video uses cartoon animation, sound, and color to capture children's attention, yet still offers accurate autism information using language they can understand. It's a great way to start a lesson about autism and accepting differences.

[A Reading Rockets Booklist: Children's Books Featuring Characters with Autism or Asperger Syndrome](#)

Understanding autism can begin with stories about a child, sibling, friend, and classmate with autism. [This collection](#) includes picture books for elementary age children and their families as well as chapter books for middle school readers.

UPCOMING STATE EVENTS

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

This event welcomes 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:

April 12, May 10, 2023 - Topics to be determined.

[13th Annual Prevent Suicide Wisconsin Virtual Conference](#)

The conference will feature a wide range of keynote presentations, breakout sessions and a lived experience panel designed to be of interest to coalition members, clinicians, educators, public health professionals, clergy, first responders, and anyone interested in suicide prevention on a local and statewide level.

Dates: April 13-14, 2023

[AT \(Assistive Technology\) and Postsecondary Education](#)

Have you wondered about what assistive/adaptive technology resources are available at the postsecondary education level? Then join Gwynette Hall and Todd Schwanke from the University of Wisconsin-Madison McBurney Disability Resource Center for this session. The session will include information on how IEP teams can help support the transition from high school to postsecondary education, including what assistive/adaptive technology may look like at the university/postsecondary level and how is it different from secondary education.

Date: April 26, 2023-4pm-5pm

Location: Virtual

[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](#)

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

Dates: May 11-12, 2023

Location: Wilderness Resort, WI Dells, WI

[Wisconsin Summer Inclusion Institute 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 and DPI Consultants will be available to assist you and your colleagues in planning and problem-solving.

Dates: July 25-26, 2023

Location: Virtual

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Supporting Teen Mental Health

According to the [National Alliance on Mental Illness](#), an alarming number of adolescents report poor mental health. Nationally, one in six children and adolescents ages six to 17 experiences a mental health disorder; 50% of all lifetime mental illnesses begin by age 14. Untreated, adolescent mental health issues can lead to physical, emotional, and mental health consequences into adulthood.

Parents may be the first to notice worrying behavioral changes in their teens. Early detection and intervention can help significantly. What are the red flags and how can family members help adolescents who are struggling? [Explore this teen mental health primer](#) from the Harvard School of Education to learn more.

ONLINE RESOURCES: Autism Spectrum Disorder

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

This site has an extensive list of links to information relating to autism. Also be sure to check their [Facebook page](#) for related information related to autism.

[Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#)

The website includes eligibility criteria for autism, information about trainings, and links to archived webinars. Links to additional resources are also included on the site.

[Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin](#)

The Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin exists to provide a community for individuals affected by autism, their families, and professionals who serve them. Their goal is to increase the quality of life for those affected by autism and respond to the emerging needs of the autism community.

[Autism Society of Southeastern WI \(ASSEW\)](#)

ASSEW works to increase public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people on the spectrum, advocate for appropriate services for individuals across the life span, and provide the latest information regarding treatment, education, research, and advocacy.

[Autism Navigator](#)

This website features a unique collection of web-based tools and courses that integrate the most current research in autism with an interactive web platform and lots of video footage showing effective evidence-based practices. It is intended for professionals as well as families.

[Autism Source](#)

The Autism Source™ Resource Database, a product of the Autism Society of America, is the most comprehensive database of its kind. Autism Source employs a nationwide network of affiliates and collaborates with other autism organizations and professionals throughout the U.S. to ensure that the database continues to grow and is kept current with reliable resources for information related to autism.

[Autism Speaks](#)

Autism Speaks is dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. They do this through advocacy and support; increasing understanding and acceptance of people with autism; and advancing research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions.

[100 Day Kit for Young Children](#)

The days after an autism diagnosis can be overwhelming. The Autism Speaks 100 Day Kit helps families of children ages four and under make the best possible use of the 100 days following the diagnosis. [A 100 Day Kit for school age children is also available.](#)

[MyAutismTeam](#)

MyAutismTeam is a social network for parents of kids with autism. The site provides emotional support from other parents of children with autism. Parents may gain practical advice and insights on managing treatment or therapies for autism. Parents can also share daily ups and downs in a judgment-free place.

[IRIS Center Modules](#)

The first module provides information on the early signs of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), as well as an overview of the difference between a medical diagnosis and an educational determination of ASD. The second module highlights strategies that have been shown to be effective in teaching appropriate behaviors and skills and decreasing inappropriate behaviors with children and youth with ASD. [IRIS Center](#) is a national center

dedicated to improving education outcomes for all children, especially those with disabilities birth through age twenty-one, using effective evidence-based practices and interventions.

RESEARCH

Autism in the Classroom: Educational Issues Across the Lifespan

Bolourian, Yasamin & Stavropoulos, Katherine & Blacher, Jan. (2019). Autism in the Classroom: Educational Issues across the Lifespan.

[Read Full Article](#)

This chapter reviews educational strategies and legal policies impacting effective schooling for children, youth, and young adults. Emphasis is on the classroom manifestation of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and how general education teachers can effectively facilitate learning. Within early school years, the importance of positive student-teacher relationships (STRs) in the face of challenging behaviors is discussed, including ways to build positive STRs. In middle and high school, social relationships serve as protective factors against mental health problems (e.g., depression, anxiety). Literature on this topic, including issues related to bullying, is presented. In postsecondary settings, young adults with ASD continue to have poor outcomes (e.g. loneliness, unemployment); strategies for helping adolescents transition to adulthood is discussed. While there are many other aspects to educational programs appropriate for individuals with ASD (e.g., curriculum content), this chapter highlights recent issues that may be informative to a wide audience—teachers and staff, researchers, and parents.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Upcoming newsletter topics:

May: Mental Health

June: ADD/ADHD

July: Speech and Language

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



This document was produced under grants from the U.S. Dept. of Education, (PTIC-#H328M200017) and WI Dept. of Public Instruction (CFDA# 84.027A/2023-M132-WIFACETS-342) to WI FACETS. The content does not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Dept. of Education, WI Dept. of Public Instruction, or WI FACETS. You should not assume endorsement by the U.S. Dept. of Education, WI Dept. of Public Instruction, WI FACETS, U.S. Dept. of Education Project Officer, David Emenheiser; or WI Dept. of Public Instruction Grant Director, Rita Fuller of any product, commodity, service or enterprise mentioned in this publication. This product is public domain. Authorization to reproduce it in whole or in part is granted. The citation should be: U.S. Dept. of Education, WI Dept. of Public Instruction, and WI FACETS, Milwaukee, WI, 2023.



WI FACETS | 600 W. Virginia St., Suite 501, Milwaukee, WI 53204

[Unsubscribe cstagge@wifacets.org](mailto:cstagge@wifacets.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by cstagge@wifacets.org in collaboration
with



Try email marketing for free today!